

Students Plan Sit-In To Protest Handling Of Student Life Issues

By Jeff Guo
NEWS EDITOR

Students are planning a sit-in today in Lobby 7 to protest the administration's treatment of student issues like hacking, housing, and dining.

As campus opens up for Family Weekend, the protesters hope to draw attention to their complaints, which have one common theme: that students are cut out of the Institute's decision-making process.

"MIT's big spiel is that MIT students will change the world — but we can't even change MIT," said Nathan S. Lachenmyer '10, who is involved with the protest.

In their mission statement, the protesters ask for more transparency from the administration, publicly available notes from any meeting involving students, and monthly town hall meetings between the administration and students.

The protesters are calling themselves the "Campaign for Students," a name taken from Susan Hockfield's effort to raise \$500 million, also called the "Campaign for Students."

Their website, www.campaign-forstudents.com, lists some of the

top grievances, which include MIT's surprise eviction of Green Hall residents last year and its comments about the Logan Airport arrest of Star A. Simpson '10, whose actions an MIT press release labeled "reckless."

An e-mail sent from campaign-forstudents@gmail.com last night also mentioned the "state of dining and dining halls at MIT including Simmons, Baker, W1 and Pritchett Dining." Students might be concerned that the Phoenix Group dining plan, which charged the NW35 undergraduates \$600 at the beginning of the fall semester to receive free all-you-can-eat meals (from 6–8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday), might be applied to other dormitory dining halls without student input. For instance, MIT has tried repeatedly to introduce all-you-can-eat dining to the Simmons Hall.

"The administration consistently disregards student opinion," the protest organizers write in their mission statement. "Students feel misled into believing that decision makers will

Protest, Page 19

Prof. Haldeman's Novel 'Forever War' Picked Up By 20th Century Fox Film

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation has acquired the rights to *The Forever War*, an award-winning 1974 novel by science fiction author and MIT writing professor Joe Haldeman. The film will be directed by Ridley Scott, whose last science fiction films were *Alien* and *Blade Runner*. The producers are now searching for a writer.

In Haldeman's novel, a physicist is drafted into a long-fought war against an alien race, where distant battlegrounds are reached by faster-than-light travel. The battles are short, bleak affairs against an uncommunicative enemy, with frequent casualties. When he returns,

the protagonist finds that the world has changed in his absence.

Basically, *The Forever War* is "all about Vietnam," said Haldeman, a draftee who served in Vietnam's Central Highlands in 1968. "I didn't sit down and make a chart or anything," he said, "but the [Vietnam] war was my model. The book won a Nebula Award and a Hugo Award, two of science fiction's most coveted honors.

Film to draw analogies to War on Terror

Today, the book is still relevant as a sharp rebuke of the Iraq war.

When Ridley Scott wrote about obtaining the movie rights, he said

Forever War, Page 16

Initiative Seed Grants Fund 17 Energy Projects

By Robert McQueen
STAFF REPORTER

For the second time this year, the MIT Energy Initiative awarded over \$1.7 million in seed grants to energy research. The grants fund 17 energy projects ranging from designing solar cookers for third world countries to synthesizing thin-films for thermoelectric power.

Reja Amatya G, who is seeking her doctorate in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is heading one of the funded projects. The goal of her project is to install solar-cookers to generate energy in third-world countries, particularly in Nepal.

By installing thermoelectric generators in solar cookers, Amatya

Admissions Blog Post Removed At MIT's Request

By Pearle Lipinski

The 'admissions blogs,' weblogs sponsored by the MIT admissions office, have seen at least two entries removed within the past year. The first, relating to last spring's Ring Committee flame war, was removed following requests from Admissions. The other, drawing criticism for what was deemed inappropriate content, was removed by the blogger. The student blogs are generally student-run and do not usually have content removed after it is initially posted.

The first post to be removed, written by sophomore Michael J. Snively, was posted in May 2008 and discussed a lengthy conversation across several dormitory mailing lists about the composition of the Class of 2011's Ring Committee. Snively's entry detailed the developing flame war, which arose when students discovered that the ring committee had no members from the east side of campus. The entry brought the discussion from

MIT Blogs, Page 12

MIT Experts Weigh In on Economic Woes

By Omar Abudayyeh
STAFF REPORTER

With a long recession looming, the government is enacting drastic measures to curb the recent financial problems, but when will things improve? Is Congress doing enough? Can Congress even solve the problem now?

From a frozen credit market to major financial firms declaring bankruptcy, there are many ways Americans can be hurt by the financial crisis. The unemployment rate (currently about 6 percent) is likely to rise as more Americans lose jobs while credit will remain hard to come by during the recession that is likely to follow.

Before the economy gets better, it'll probably get worse, said An-

drew Lo of the MIT Sloan School of Management. "In the short term, more banks and businesses might close," said Lo.

Students will also be hit by the crisis; Lo said that they would most likely find it harder to secure jobs after graduation.

Ricardo Caballero of the MIT Economics Department said that although student loans will be negatively affected, the effect would die down soon. But, he said, university endowments are sure to be hurt.

According Caballero, before any strong recovery can occur, the government must become more flexible. An "economic come-back is all politics at this point," he said. The government failed to respond until the downturn began, Caballero

said.

The crisis, however, likely could have been averted if regulators acted sooner. "It's understandable why there was a crisis. For a period of several years of very low interest rates allowed for easy money," said Lo. For years, people effortlessly borrowed money and the economy boomed. "There was a housing market that would never go down and strong market trends. Now people are paying the price," explained Lo.

Lo said that careful attention must be paid to proposed governmental plans. "To avoid another crisis," Lo said, "we have to deal with lessening the number of foreclosures and helping banks that

Economy, Page 10

In Short

¶ **MIT cats will be featured on *The Today Show* today** between 8:30–9 a.m. *The Today Show* was on campus Sept. 15, filming students in Senior House, Bexley Hall, and Random Hall.

¶ **The MIT Police Bike Auction** will be held today at 290 Albany St. at noon, with a preview beginning at 11:30 a.m. The auction is open to the MIT community only, and an MIT ID must be presented to participate.

¶ **The Harvest Co-op grocery store**, located at 581 Massachusetts Ave., will begin accepting TechCASH today.

¶ **MIT Senior Lecturer Amy B. Smith**, creator of the D-Lab classes, was awarded Popular Mechanics magazine's Breakthrough Leader-

ship award, the top honor out of the 20 awards in its annual list. The magazine called Smith "a visionary" and said she is "an inspiration to students and volunteers who dedicate their time to improve the standard of living in Haiti, Ghana, India, and other countries."

¶ **A memorial service for Robert Hulsizer PhD '48**, a former MIT professor of physics, will be held Sunday, Oct. 19 at 3 p.m. in the MIT Chapel. A reception will be held at McCormick Hall following the service.

¶ **A remembrance gathering for Alexander Vladimir d'Arbelloff '49**, former MIT Corporation Chairman, will be held today at 3:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

News

Math skills suffer in U.S.
Page 13

Baylor rewards frosh who retake SAT
Page 18

Opinion

Post-debate impressions
Page 4

The need for a nuanced Russia policy
Page 5

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Arts 6
Fun 7
Sports 20

WORLD & NATION

UBS, Credit Suisse Get Urgent Funds

By Nelson D. Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Switzerland extended urgent help Thursday to its storied banking industry as the government acknowledged that even the world's biggest wealth haven needed protection from the tumult gripping the global financial system.

Less than a week after Europe and the United States coordinated moves to ease the crisis, the Swiss government said it would take a 9 percent stake in UBS, the financial giant that has been among the hardest hit by losses from American subprime mortgage debt, and inject it with 6 billion Swiss francs, in capital. Rebuking UBS for failing to maintain adequate risk controls, regulators also set up a \$60 billion fund to absorb toxic assets lingering on its books, a move designed to strengthen its financial and competitive position.

Credit Suisse, the country's other banking powerhouse, rebuffed an offer of direct government help and said it would raise \$8.75 billion on its own from the Qatar Investment Authority and other private backers to shore up its capital base.

Although neither bank is in danger of collapse, with evidence mounting that confidence in UBS's core wealth management business was eroding, the Swiss National Bank moved quickly.

GOP Donor Is Accused of Overcharging Pentagon

By James Glanz
and Michael Luo

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Democratic chairman of a House investigative committee presented documents to the Pentagon on Thursday charging that a top Republican fundraiser, Harry Sargeant III, has made tens of millions of dollars in profits over the last four years because his contracting company vastly overcharged for deliveries of fuel to U.S. air bases in Iraq.

In a written statement on Thursday, a lawyer for Sargeant, who is the finance chairman of the Florida Republican Party and a major fundraiser for Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign, called the allegations "deeply disappointing" and asserted that they were not supported by the facts.

The contracting company, called the International Oil Trading Co., or IOTC, was briefly in the news over the summer when a former partner filed a lawsuit against Sargeant in a Florida circuit court.

The former partner, a Jordanian named Mohammad al-Saleh, is a brother-in-law of the King of Jordan. The court papers laid out his assertion that he obtained special governmental authorizations for the company to transport the fuel through Jordan and was then unlawfully forced out by Sargeant, who strongly disputed those allegations.

EPA Toughens Standard on Lead Emissions

By Felicity Barringer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday set stringent new standards for airborne lead particles, following the recommendations of its science advisers and cutting the maximum allowable concentrations to a tenth of the previous standard. It was the first change in federal lead standards in three decades.

But the cleanup of areas with excessive lead levels is not required for more than eight years, and the system of monitors that detect the toxic contaminant is frayed. Currently, 133 monitors are in operation nationwide, down from about 800 in 1980, an EPA spokeswoman, Cathy Milbourn, said. The agency is working on rebuilding this network, to include more than 300 monitors, Milbourn said.

The new standards set the limits for exposure at 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter of air, down from 1.5 micrograms, and well within the outer limit of 0.2 micrograms recommended by the advisers.

Oil Price Falls Beneath \$70 in Rapid Descent

By Jad Mouawad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oil prices dropped below \$70 a barrel for the first time in 14 months on Thursday, prompting the OPEC cartel to call for an emergency meeting next week to establish some stability in prices that have swung wildly along with the stock market this year.

Oil prices have tumbled by nearly \$40 a barrel in just three weeks amid growing signs that demand for energy will slow along with weakening economies around the world. As recently as July, oil was trading at a record of \$145 a barrel.

The decline in oil prices could provide a form of stimulus to the economy as consumers pay less to fill up their tanks. If oil prices stay at current levels, consumers would have \$250 billion more, over a year, to save or spend elsewhere, according to Lawrence Goldstein, an energy economist. Some analysts expect oil prices to keep declining, perhaps to as low as \$50 a barrel in coming months.

Americans will probably see lower energy bills this winter, as gasoline and heating oil futures also dropped sharply on Thursday. Gasoline prices now average \$3.08 a gallon, down

from a summer peak of \$4.11 a gallon, according to AAA.

The decline in oil prices came after a government report showed a larger-than-anticipated rise in domestic crude oil stockpiles as Americans use less oil, in part because they are driving less. In the past month, domestic oil demand has fallen to its lowest level since June 1999, at 18.6 million barrels a day, according to the Department of Energy.

Oil settled down \$4.69 a barrel at \$69.85 on Thursday. The drop, along with other promising signs on the inflation front, was among the reasons investors bid stocks higher, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing up 401.35 points at 8,979.26.

Natural gas prices have also tumbled since their summer peak of \$13.58 per thousand cubic feet. On Thursday, natural gas futures rose 19 cents, to \$6.81, after a report showed that stockpiles rose less than expected.

While consumers may have reason to cheer the falling oil prices after such a sharp run-up, the wild roller coaster of volatility is a nightmare for oil producers and petroleum executives who say they need more stabil-

ity to better plan long-term projects to develop new sources of oil.

If they cannot be confident that they will get a stable return on their investment, they may hold back. That in turn could set the stage for possible shortages of oil and higher prices when global demand picks up again.

The sharp drop-off has forced OPEC's hand. The cartel said just last week that it would meet in mid-November, after the U.S. elections. But on Thursday it rescheduled its emergency session for next Friday, Oct. 24.

The cartel's producers, who control 40 percent of global experts, could curb their output by about a million barrels a day to try to stem the drop in prices, according to analysts.

From its inception the oil industry has gone through countless cycles, with oil companies cutting investments when prices fell. The price collapse of the 1980s forced companies to slash investments and sparked a wave of large mergers through the industry. But this retrenchment left the world scrambling for oil when demand from Asian and Latin American economies soared.

Airstrike in Afghanistan Threatens to Anger Populace

By John F. Burns

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A NATO airstrike Thursday on a village near the embattled provincial capital of Lashkar Gah killed between 25 and 30 civilians, Afghan officials in the area said.

While NATO confirmed that an airstrike had taken place in the area, where Taliban fighters have been battling NATO forces, it said the reports were being investigated and that the command was "unable to confirm any civilian casualties."

Reliable information on the airstrike — whether it caused the deaths, as local officials and residents reported, and whether the number of civilian deaths was accurate — was elusive. But any substantial civilian death toll would further inflame an Afghan government and public already uneasy over a recent rise in civilian casualties

from coalition airstrikes. U.S. commanders have acknowledged the war has been going badly in recent months as the Taliban and al-Qaida have stepped up their campaign of bombings and assassinations.

Residents claiming to have witnessed the airstrike said at least 18 bodies, all women and children — including one only six months old — were pulled from the rubble and taken to the provincial governor's compound in protest.

At nightfall in Kabul, the Afghan capital, the NATO command issued a statement confirming only that an airstrike had taken place in the Nadali District, northwest of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province in the southwest. The command said it expected to give more details on Friday.

Local officials and residents of Nadali said Thursday that a bomb

had hit three houses in a village in the Loy Bagh District that were sheltering seven families seeking refuge from fighting elsewhere in the district over the past week. Mahboob Khan, the district chief, said in a telephone interview that 18 bodies had been pulled from the rubble, and that as many as 12 other bodies remained buried in the ruins. Khan said the bombing had caused widespread anger among the villagers.

"They're busy burying their family members now," he said.

He added: "But tomorrow, they will demand to know why their houses were targeted."

Khan's account, and similar ones given by other local officials, could not be verified because reporters were unable to reach the site of the strike. Khan's compound in Nadali is said to be the only place in the district that is under the control of the government.

WEATHER

Omar Churns in Atlantic as Boston Cools Down

By Vince Agard

Although fall is in full swing, the annual hurricane season stretches through the month of October, and the Atlantic has been home to some recent cyclone activity in the form of Hurricane Omar.

After forming on Monday off the northern coast of South America in the Caribbean Sea, Omar began strengthening, attaining Tropical Storm status on Tuesday and Hurricane status the following day. During the early morning hours on Thursday, Omar battered Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands with sustained winds upward of 125 mph (200 km/h) before moving out to sea and beginning to lose strength. Although a storm of such strength is unlikely to reach New England, the possibility for the formation of new tropical cyclones still exists for the next few weeks.

Here in the Boston area, we will see some more autumn-like weather over the coming week. Although we have been enjoying temperatures in the upper 60s for most of this week, a cold front that passed through the region on Thursday will bring cooler, crisper weather in the near future. Mostly clear conditions can be expected for the next few days, with temperatures ranging from the 50s during the daytime to the lower 40s overnight.

Extended Forecast

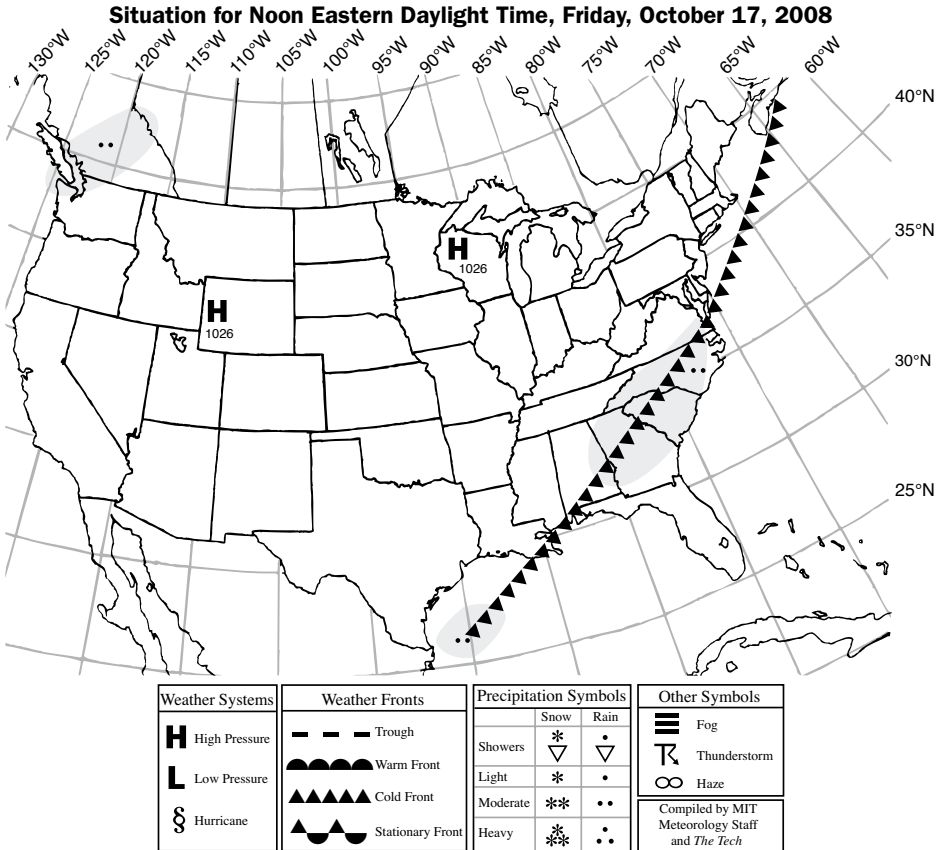
Today: Mostly sunny. High 56°F (13°C).

Tonight: Clear. Low 41°F (5°C).

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High 51°C (11°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 50s°F (11°C).

Monday: Mostly sunny, Highs in the upper 50s°F (15°C).



Debate Puts ‘Joe the Plumber’ in the Spotlight

By **Larry Rohter**
and **Liz Robbins**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

One week ago, Joe Wurzelbacher was just another working man living in a modest house outside Toledo, Ohio, and thinking about how to expand the plumbing business where he works. But when he stopped Sen. Barack Obama during a visit to his block last weekend to complain about taxes, he set himself on a path to becoming America’s newest media celebrity and as such suddenly found himself facing celebrity-level scrutiny.

As it turns out, “Joe the Plumber,” as he became nationally known when Sen. John McCain made him a theme at Wednesday night’s third and final presidential debate, may work in the plumbing business, but he is not a licensed plumber.

Thomas Joseph, the business manager of Local 50 of the United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters and Service Mechanics, based in Toledo, said Thursday that Wurzelbacher had never held a plumber’s license, which is required in Toledo and several surrounding municipalities. He also never completed an apprenticeship

and does not belong to the plumber’s union, which has endorsed Obama.

His full name is Samuel J. Wurzelbacher. And he owes a bit in back taxes, too, according to public records. The premise of his complaint to Obama about taxes may also be flawed, according to tax analysts. Contrary to what Wurzelbacher asserted and McCain echoed, neither his personal taxes nor those of the business where he works are likely to rise if Obama’s tax plan were to go into effect, they said.

None of that is likely to matter to those who see Wurzelbacher as a symbol of the entrepreneurial spirit they hope to foster with tax cuts — McCain, campaigning in Pennsylvania on Thursday, again put him at the center of his pitch — but even Wurzelbacher said he was shocked by all the attention.

“I’m kind of like Britney Spears having a headache,” he told The Associated Press on Thursday. “Everybody wants to know about it.”

Just five days ago, Wurzelbacher, 34, lived in anonymity on Shrewsbury Street in Holland, Ohio, a single father who, as he said on national tele-

vision, worked all day at the plumbing business and came home to fix dinner and help his 13-year-old son with his homework. His goal, in his own words, was simply “to have a house, a dog, a couple rifles, a bass boat.”

But he became the hero of conservatives and Republicans when he stopped Obama, who was campaigning on his street on Sunday, and asked whether he believed in the American dream. Wurzelbacher said he was concerned about having to pay higher taxes when he made the transition from employee to the owner of a small business.

“I’m getting ready to buy a company that makes \$250,000 to \$280,000 a year,” he told Obama in an exchange that was videotaped and later showed up on YouTube. “Your new tax plan is going to tax me more, isn’t it?”

That encounter quickly led to appearances on the Fox News Channel, interviews with conservative bloggers and an editorial in The New York Post, all of whom seized on a small part of Obama’s long reply. “I think that when you spread the wealth around, it’s good for everybody,” Obama had said.

Presidential Rivals’ Visions Differ on Sparking Innovation

By **William J. Broad**
and **Comelia Dean**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For decades, the United States dominated the technological revolution sweeping the globe. The nation’s science and engineering skills produced vast gains in productivity and wealth, powered its military and made it the de facto world leader.

Today, the dominance is eroding. In 2002, the nation’s high-technology balance of trade went south, and it never came back. By 2007, the annual gap between high-tech exports and imports had grown to \$53 billion. The gap this year is expected to be the largest ever — approaching \$60 billion.

Both presidential candidates, in their careers and in their campaigns, have made detailed arguments for how the nation should deal with technology rivals, sharpen its competitive edge and improve what experts call its “ecology of innovation.”

Yet their visions are strikingly different. They diverge mainly on the appropriate role for the federal government in education, in spending on research, and in building, maintaining and regulating the complex infrastruc-

ture on which innovation depends. The visions both face tough questions on their viability amid the nation’s deepening financial crisis.

Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, seeks to encourage innovation by cutting corporate taxes and ending what he calls “burdensome regulations” that he says inhibit corporate investment. But McCain has also repeatedly gone up against business if he sees a conflict with national security, for instance, in seeking to limit sensitive exports.

In Sen. Barack Obama’s view, the United States must compete far more effectively against an array of international rivals who are growing more technically adept. Obama, the Democratic nominee, looks to the federal government to finance science, math and engineering education and the kind of basic research that can produce valuable industrial spinoffs.

The personal styles of the candidates also contrast. McCain says his leadership of the Senate commerce committee has versed him in technology issues, but he also jokes about his ignorance of personal computers and e-mail. Obama, an avid BlackBerry

user, commenced an aggressive drive for campaign donations over the Internet.

Obama embraces the theory of evolution and argues that the teaching of intelligent design and other creationist ideas “cloud” a student’s understanding of science. While McCain says he personally believes in evolution, he has also said that children should be taught “all points of view.”

McCain has written five books, starting in 1999, but none discuss in any detail how the nation might respond to technical rivals — a central theme of Obama’s second book, published in 2006. Obama posted a detailed set of technology proposals on his Web site late last year; McCain did so in recent months.

It remains to be seen how the candidates would pay for their proposals.

At the request of The New York Times, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, estimated the annual costs of the plans and put Obama’s at \$85.6 billion and McCain’s at \$78.8 billion, excluding his proposed reductions in corporate taxes.

A Senator Takes the Witness Stand

By **Neil A. Lewis**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sen. Ted Stevens took the witness stand in his own defense on Thursday, asserting that he had never engaged in any scheme to file false disclosure forms in the Senate.

In taking the calculated risk of testifying at his corruption trial, Stevens, a Republican, made what should be a fateful decision to tell his story before two distinct audiences — the jury hearing the case and the Alaska electorate that will decide on Nov. 4 whether to return him to the Senate, where he has represented the state for 40 years.

Stevens, 84, is charged in seven felony counts with knowingly failing to list on Senate disclosure forms some \$250,000 in gifts and services in connection with the renovation of his Alaska home.

Ending days of suspense in the courtroom about whether he would testify, he was called to the stand late in the afternoon by his lawyer, Brendan Sullivan.

“When you signed these forms did you believe they were accurate and truthful?” Sullivan asked. “Yes sir,” Stevens replied.

“Did you ever intend to file false statements?” His response: “No, I did not.”

Stevens’ brief declarations of innocence came at the end of two days in which defense witnesses including his wife, Catherine Stevens, were subjected to strong cross-examinations by Justice Department prosecutors. For the rest of his 20 minutes on the stand before court recessed for the day, Stevens recounted some of his personal and political history in Alaska.

It was what Sullivan said was a “warmup” for a full bout of testimony on Friday morning by Stevens before what is expected to be a critical cross-examination.

The heart of the case is whether Stevens knew that his longtime friend, Bill Allen, an oil services tycoon, used his company, Veco, to rebuild a small A-frame home in Girdwood, Alaska. Beginning in 1999, the Stevens home underwent a complete makeover; it was jacked up, a new floor was built underneath, decks were added on two floors and various appliances and gifts were added including an expensive gas grill and a stained glass panel.

Allen, a rough-hewn entrepre-

neur who made a fortune in Alaska’s North Slope oilfields, testified for the prosecution earlier this month that Stevens fully understood that he was getting the goods and services for free.

Stevens’ defense has been that that he and his wife paid about \$130,000 to some contractors, which they believed covered the cost of the renovation. Although the Stevenses never paid Allen or Veco any money, defense lawyers argued that Allen had done lots of things on his own and never sent Stevens any bills.

Defense lawyers asserted that Allen, who had once been close friends with Stevens, had turned on him, to win favor with the government. He needed the government’s agreement to sell his company for some \$380 million and is also facing sentencing for his conviction in Alaska for a scheme to bribe state lawmakers.

The defense posture was put to the test for most of Thursday with Stevens’ wife, Catherine, on the stand. She is a well-known Washington lawyer and is, in her own right, known as a formidable figure. Under questioning by Robert Cary, a Stevens lawyer, she was self-assured and straightforward.

Judge Orders Investigation of Executions in Franco Era

By **Dale Fuchs**
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*MADRID

The crusading investigative judge Baltasar Garzon opened Spain’s first criminal investigation into Franco-era executions and repression with an order Thursday to open 19 mass graves, including one believed to contain the remains of the poet Federico Garcia Lorca.

Garzon, who has focused on terrorism cases in recent years, is often praised for his failed attempt to prosecute Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator, in 1998 for crimes against humanity. But his order on Thursday raised an immediate controversy within Spain itself. Silence and a so-called pact of forgetting about past atrocities were the pillars of the peaceful transition to democracy after the nearly 40-year dictatorship of Franco, who died in 1975.

In a 68-page court document, Garzon accepted a petition to investigate the forced disappearances of thousands of people who, like Garcia Lorca, were on or linked to the losing Republican side of the Spanish Civil War. The petition was filed by 13 associations of victims’ families.

Garcia Lorca was executed in Granada, where he was born, by a firing squad at the start of the war, which ran from 1936 to 1939. The grave his remains are believed to lie in, along with those of a schoolteacher and two union leaders, is in a nearby village, Viznar. It has become a pilgrimage site for lovers of Garcia Lorca’s tragic, passionate verse, as well as for students of Spanish history — many of whom leave flowers or notes at the site.

In Economic Crisis, Newly Profligate India Cuts Back

By **Somini Sengupta**
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*NEW DELHI

Aman Walia, 21, dreamed of flying.

Armed with a student loan, he enrolled in flight attendant school and snatched himself a dream job with Jet Airways, India’s largest private carrier, six months ago. In short order, he bought his first car, renovated his apartment and threw himself into the high life of young, exuberant New India.

This week, he was fired.

Jet Airways, having posted large losses over the last year, announced layoffs of 1,900 crew members, including 800 flight attendants.

It was part of India’s first taste of pain from a bruising global economic slowdown. “Dreams are on hold right now,” Walia said Thursday. He and dozens of former Jet employees, the men in navy suits and the women in knee-length golden yellow jackets usually seen on board doling out lemonade with smiles, marched incongruously through the domestic airport here this morning, shouting slogans.

“Jet Airways, down, down,” they chanted as news television cameras rolled.

While the airline reversed itself later in the day and reinstated the workers, the shock seemed likely to linger.

Until recently, Indians had been spared the worst of the fallout from the current global financial crisis: no mass foreclosures, no banks threatening default under mountains of debt. But India’s fast-clip economy is beginning to show signs of a slowdown, in turn tamping the country’s newfound predilection to spend.

Google’s Net Is Up 26 Percent

By **Miguel Helft**
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*SAN FRANCISCO

For months, Google has promised investors that the company’s online advertising system would do relatively well in an economic downturn. On Thursday, it showed evidence that it may be able deliver on that promise.

Google said that its growth rate continued to slow in the third quarter. But the company fared better than Wall Street expected as it reported a solid 26 percent jump in net income to \$1.35 billion, or \$4.24 a share, from \$1.07 billion in the third quarter of 2007. The company’s results were bolstered by strong gains in online advertising and efforts by Google to slow hiring and rein in costs.

Google’s shares, which rose to \$353.02, or 4 percent, in regular trading on Thursday, jumped an additional 10 percent after the company reported its financial results. However, they remain down sharply from their high of just over \$740 in November 2007.

Google’s chief executive, Eric E. Schmidt, said the results reflected marketers’ acceptance of a system that is better and more measurable than other forms of advertising. He said that while the economic environment was unpredictable, Google was poised to continue doing relatively well.

“We are very realistic about the macroeconomic climate, but we are optimistic about Google’s future,” Schmidt said during a conference call with analysts.

Nader Displays New Fervor On the Bailout Issue

By **Julie Bosman**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Standing on the steps of Federal Hall just after noon on Thursday, Ralph Nader was the same familiar tall, rumpled, graying figure, fervently railing against corporate power and greed.

“There are no bailouts for the working people of this country!” said Nader, 74, addressing a crowd of several hundred people on Wall Street, a mix of cheering fans toting “Jail Time for Corporate Crime” signs, curious workers on their lunch breaks and bewildered tourists snapping pictures. “Just bailouts for the speculative corporations of this country.”

In the \$700 billion bailout plan for the financial system, Nader, now on his fourth presidential run, has finally found a real-life event to illustrate what he has made a cause of his career.

“Oh yeah, it’s got everything,” Nader said in an interview after the rally. “Taxation without representation, no public hearings. This is the worst yet, procedurally and substantively.”

Nader continues to draw scorn for his role in the 2000 election, when many Democrats felt his long-shot candidacy destroyed Al Gore’s chances of becoming president. But this time, some polls in critical swing states like Florida suggest he is drawing votes from Sen. John McCain, the Republican nominee.

OPINION



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Corrections

Because of a production error, the Oct. 14, 2008 story “Gender Ratios Vary Widely Across MIT Courses” incorrectly described the coloring of a chart showing graduate student gender ratios by major as “mostly magenta.” In fact it is mostly cyan, indicating that the composition of many graduate programs is more heavily male. Also because of a production error, the article incorrectly stated that the chart for undergraduates “has slightly more cyan than magenta” because women are the majority in more departments; in fact, that chart has more magenta than cyan for that reason.

Post-Debate Impressions

Why Aren't the Candidates Talking More About Science and Technology?

Ethan Solomon

Barack Obama and John McCain faced off in their last presidential debate this Wednesday, and by many measures, it was the most interesting of the three rumbles. The senators tackled the economy, healthcare, energy, and for the first time, abortion, education and the nomination of justices for the Supreme Court.

But since your time is precious and you can just flip on the TV to see what the talking heads on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox have to say about who won the debate, or how John McCain's facial expressions are going to decide the future of this country, I'd like to comment specifically on the candidates' positions on education in the context of one of Bob Schieffer's questions:

Our country spends the most on education, but our standardized math and science scores lag well behind most other countries. What will the candidates do to close this gap and improve education in America?

Since we're at MIT, math and science education is kinda' important to us and maybe we should pay attention to what the candidates are saying about it. Last night, that was easy, because neither of the candidates addressed the issue of education in terms of America's lagging math and science scores.

Both re-hashed their talking points on education — in a nutshell, McCain advocates for a competitive model, throwing education to the wolves of the free market (the same metaphorical wolves who brought the metaphorically broken, partially devoured carcass of our financial sector to the American people's metaphorical doorstep), while Obama argued

for a reform of No Child Left Behind and increased federal funding for schools.

True to form, both made very sure to not address the question directly, lest they accidentally provide an answer. Obama certainly could have though — his website specifically addresses that math and science scores should be a top priority in the American education scheme. Either Ctrl+F on Firefox isn't work-

Here's my advice: the candidates should do everything they can to associate themselves with developments in science and technology.

ing, or McCain's section on education does not mention “math” or “science” once.

During the debate, Obama made a brief connection between education, the economy, and national security, but more needs to be said on the matter. The American economy and the outstanding role model the United States used to represent to the rest of the world depended largely on American innovation in science and technology. The renewable sources of energy that Obama and McCain “discuss” ad nauseum hinge on the same type of leaps and bounds in science and technology (some of those advances being made right at MIT).

In a very literal sense, the security of the United States is a direct function of our prowess in science and technology. Innovations like radar, computers, GPS, and Stark Industries' Jericho missile are all vital com-

State of the Race

With 19 Days Left, Where Do We Stand?

Spenser Skates

It was only a month ago that Democrats had a serious fear of losing the 2008 presidential election. The nomination of Sarah Palin was thought to be the beginning of the end of the Obama juggernaut. This was the first time that McCain had held a lead nationally since May — far before Obama had wrapped up the nomination.

In spite of a ringing endorsement the week of the Democratic National Convention from both Senator Clinton and her husband, the former president, disaffected Clinton supporters were supposed to be ready to throw their support Sarah Palin and sink Obama for his bitter primary battle with the New York senator.

Headlines around the world featured “McCain picks woman as running mate” and the Republican base was energized for the first time since McCain was nominated, with record levels of volunteers and donations streaming to the McCain campaign. The Republican Party had a reason to be excited.

Guess what's happening now?

John McCain is not a happy camper. More people believe that Sarah Palin is not qualified to be president than believe she is qualified. Voters are especially concerned with McCain's age with respect to the vice-presidency, as Sarah Palin would literally be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

If elected into office, McCain will become 72 years-old on inauguration day, the oldest start to the job of the presidency in history.

CBS News released a national poll on Wednesday featuring a 14 point lead for Obama.

14 points!

After going through two nail biting elections where the margin of victory was 1-2 percent, 14 points is huge. As long as national tracking polls have been around, no candidate has come back from a double digit deficit with less than 3 weeks to go and win.

On top of this, Obama has the advantage in the electoral math. His poll numbers in the Kerry states plus Iowa, New Mexico, Colorado, and Virginia — a winning combination — are

ponents of a strong American military and all owe their development to research in science and technology, particularly at institutions such as MIT.

So why don't the candidates like talking about this? Would it not play well with the American people? The people would rather hear confused responses about vouchers, No Child Left Behind and charter schools than hear about what's really going to make our country strong?

Here's my advice: the candidates should do everything they can to associate themselves with developments in science and technology (S&T, if you will). The debates would have been a great time to do this. The candidates could have connected the dots between national security, the economy, energy, climate change and education into a beautiful, interconnected web of promises with S&T at its core, and I totally would have bought it.

Plus, it's an issue that plays well with both parties, so I would see no reason why either candidate wouldn't try and capitalize on some S&T cred. What we saw Wednesday night shows that both candidates are missing the big picture. Stronger education in science and math means more innovations in technology which means more efficient sources of power and more effective ways to defend the country which means energy independence and job creation which means a strong economy.

It's essentially that simple. The American people know this.

If either candidate reads this and is stuck on how to boost their S&T cred, here's another suggestion: come to MIT and give a talk at Kresge. Please. That'd be so cool.

Ethan Solomon is a member of the Class of 2012.

all above his national average. This means that McCain cannot only tie Obama in the popular vote — he needs to gain a solid lead to guarantee victory.

Therefore, if McCain wants to win, he has to upset the applecart in a major way. He does not have many opportunities left to do so. Now that the debates are finished, he really only has a chance to either come out with a major story about Obama, seize on a major international incident hugely favorable to the Republican party (think terrorist attack or war with Russia), or wait for Obama to make a major election changing gaffe.

Continuing with the status quo, or even making a small dent in his numbers on the basis of the same tired stories will result in an Obama victory. It's time for the Hail-Mary play — otherwise McCain will be stuck sitting on his hands waiting for a unlikely gift from the extraordinarily disciplined Obama campaign.

Will McCain go out with a whimper or a bang?

Spenser Skates is a member of the Class of 2010.

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The Need for a Nuanced Russia Policy

An Analysis of the Candidates’ Takes on Russian Relations

Florence Gallez

“A wolf with a limited point of view” — this is how Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (then president) referred to the United States days after Condoleezza Rice spoke on US-Russian cooperation at Boston College in May 2006.

Whoever is elected to the U.S. presidency, the job of ‘dealing with Russia,’ won’t be easy ...

And not just for a less internationally-experienced candidate like Barack Obama. To start with, both candidates are being handed by the media an all too familiar simplistic Cold War-styled script. The second debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on Oct. 7 did just that.

Asked to assess Russia amid already strained US-Russian relations, the candidates were asked the barbed question, “Do you think that Russia under Vladimir Putin is an evil empire?” with the option to reply “yes” or “no.”

Both skillfully skipped past the pointed replies, but made clear that they have problems with Russia.

“Maybe,” McCain replied, adding, “If I say yes, then that means that we’re reigniting the old Cold War. If I say no, it ignores their behavior.”

“I think they’ve engaged in an evil behavior, and I think that it is important that we understand they’re not the old Soviet Union, but they still have nationalist impulses that I think are very dangerous,” Obama said, as if taking his cue from McCain’s long-standing anti-Russia stance — which he seems to have been doing with increased frequency when commenting on foreign policy.

Now, with just two weeks to go after the final presidential debate on Oct. 15, one wonders if this reductionistic mindset will taint US-Russian relations, be it under an Obama or McCain presidency.

The Russia Question may well take a backseat to leave room for Iraq, Iran, China, or most obviously the financial crisis, as it did during the foreign policy-turned economy debate of last week.

However, with an increasingly assertive and aggressive Russia and growing tension in the Central Asian republics following the war with Georgia (where both sides are vying for strategic control of energy) Obama and McCa-

in would do well to 1) study the region closely and 2) know who they are talking to.

The United States’ response to the five-day conflict between Russia and Georgia in August largely ignored the local and regional factors and instantly resorted to high geopolitics — an easy formula that the new US president should avoid when dealing with Russia and the CIS region. As for his interlocutor, it is clear to all now that Putin is the one running the show and it should be no surprise if he engineered a comeback.

Particularly when it comes to the two new American players on the international scene — Obama and Palin — one wonders if they realize how dysfunctional the US-Russian relationship can be. Despite crucial partnerships on many fronts, from trade to space, and ecology to antiterrorism, diverging views on core concepts such as democracy and human rights, an endless blame game and a one-sided war of words have been the trademarks of talks between Moscow and Washington.

On the US side, just as on Russia’s, finger-shaking and talk that casts the other as ‘the enemy’ has been characteristic of American policy on Russia throughout Bush’s two terms.

There is no minimizing the despotic nature of Putin’s Russia, which over the past couple of years has been marked by a trampling of the opposition, the free press, and the independent judiciary. The government has resorted to sending its message through harassment, rigged trials, and slaying of critics.

Should he be elected, McCain’s unresolved Cold War issues and Russophobic rhetoric promise to exacerbate such ‘we’ vs. ‘they’ sentiments and continue down the anti-Russia hysteria path.

Maybe he really did have a point when he said that when he looked into Putin’s eyes he saw three letters: K.G.B. (This is itself a reference to George W. Bush’s own declaration that when he first met the Russian president, he caught a glimpse of Putin’s soul by looking into his eyes and found him to be trustworthy.)

But his calls for kicking Russia out of the Group of 8 (G8) nations rather than engaging the country will only further alienate the Russian people and their new president, Dmitry Medvedev. Arguably, this may seem mild compared to his running mate Sarah Palin’s declaration last month that she was ready to go to war with Russia on behalf of Georgia,

whose democratic credentials the Republican party has been trumpeting about with especial vehemence.

As last month’s brief war showed, Saakashvili is no saint. However, it also helps to know about McCain’s top foreign policy advisor Randy Scheunemann’s long financial relationship with Saakashvili to lobby his interests in the United States, which earned him nearly one million dollars. Or that Palin’s husband works for BP, the oil company that has been locked in a battle with the Russian government over its 50 percent stake in Russian energy giant TNK, and that BP is the largest stakeholder in the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline — which runs through Georgia.

In short, there is no doubt that Big Oil is behind much of the McCain-Palin agenda, which throws into question the motivation behind their broadly broadcast concerns over democracy in the region.

The United States may have good reasons for NATO expansion and its plans for a missile-defense shield in Eastern Europe, but McCain’s anger-filled pronouncements on Russia verge on provocation and following the Bush Administration’s debacle in Iraq, one can only wonder what kind of world order such aggressive leadership would create.

The Democrats are not entirely clean of dubious dealings with the Georgian ruling elite either, as was made clear by Bill Clinton’s frolicking on the yachts of KGB-connected Ukrainian nationalist politician Viktor Yanukovich, whose party ‘Our Ukraine’ received advice from the firm run by Clinton’s pollster, Stan Greenberg, during the 2004 presidential election.

Palin’s assurances that she is knowledgeable on Russian affairs on the basis of Alaska’s proximity to Russia raises similar doubts on the future government, although on a different level ...

... the exact same level as Obama’s lack of experience in negotiating with big international players. This is a worrying scenario, although Obama’s past political records prove him to be a fast learner. On the other hand, having highly Russia-critical Zbigniew Brzezinski in his foreign policy team is where our same McCain-type leadership fears could resurface.

Although Russian polls show that, were Russians allowed to vote in U.S. elections, they would prefer Obama over McCain, the resurgence of xenophobic ultra-nationalism in

the Russian leadership and society in recent years may make the job harder for Obama. This is a country that has seen rampant racism and increased attacks against non-white citizens over the past couple of years, and where the word ‘negr’ [nigger] is perfectly acceptable in the Russian language. Dubious jokes on skin color abound in TV shows and advertisements.

Having said this, Condoleezza Rice seemed to have had no problems commanding respect among her Russian counterparts on her numerous visits to Moscow.

Just as McCain would need to tone down, Obama needs a more assertive voice when talking to Russia. His style may be more in sync with (at least seemingly) a ‘softer’ Medvedev, But he needs to be ultra clear on policies too. The vague ideal of trying to be everything to all people of his initial campaign will not work in this context, and Putin has proved to be a very shrewd strategist.

Obama may have also a deeper understanding of what Russians went through — as may suggest a comparative chart of what African-Americans and ethnic Russians in Russia have in common, published earlier this year in the now defunct expat newspaper The Exile.

Among the entries are: African-Americans (AA) were freed in 1863 by President Lincoln, Russians were freed in 1861 by Tsar Alexander II; AA only given full voting rights in 1960s, Russians only given full voting rights in 1989, voting rights taken away in 2000; AA: white-only stores, Russians: foreigners-only hard currency stores; AA: problem of fatherless families, Russians: problem of fatherless families; African Americans invented rock’n roll, an African-Russian named Pushkin invented modern Russian literature. The list goes on ...

Despite the newspaper’s highly controversial nature — it was closed down by the Kremlin earlier this year — these comparisons may throw some new light on Obama as Russia’s possible interlocutor. One thing is sure, whichever wolf faces the bear in coming months and beyond, and whatever the global economic conditions, he will have to engage rather than enrage him. A new, more nuanced Russia policy, and a redefinition of NATO’s role and U.S. interests in the Caucasus are a true imperative.

Florence Gallez is a graduate student in the Department of Comparative Media Studies.

The ‘Joe the Plumber’ Debate

McCain and Obama Remind Us What a Presidential Debate Should Actually Look Like

Joseph Maurer

It’s 3 a.m., and my roommate is quiet and asleep. But there’s a phone on my desk, and it’s ringing.

Thankfully, my cell phone is only reminding me to finish this story, but in my sleep deprived state, I can’t help but chuckle at how much the Presidential race has shifted in the past few months. When Hillary Clinton first ran the now infamous red phone ad, she was emphasizing how we live in a “dangerous world,” telling voters that she was better prepared than Barack Obama to tame any foreign threat.

Fast forward to Wednesday night’s debate at the Hofstra University between Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, and it’s easy to wonder how the situation changed so dramatically. This last of three Presidential debates fittingly focused exclusively on domestic policy: health care, taxes, and of course, the economy.

For this debate, and at this time in our nation’s history, Americans are more concerned about the literal bread and butter crises of their everyday lives. Pocketbook issues and the financial crisis trump the equally important but more distant problems of Iran, North Korea, and as John McCain puts it, “countries that don’t like us very much.”

Moderator Bob Schieffer wasted no time by immediately asking the Senators to evaluate each other’s economic recovery plans, where both candidates agreed on the necessity of stabilizing falling home values. Beyond this brief agreement though, the debate served to illustrate the meaningful differences between McCain and Obama.

Things got heated quickly on taxes, where Obama’s 95 percent tax cut butted against McCain’s pro-business policies. While the rhetoric from both campaigns is familiar at this point, Mac proved once again how he earned the ‘maverick’ label by injecting Joe the Plumber into the debate.

For those who didn’t get his life story from the debate, Joe Wurzelbacher (aka Joe the

Plumber) is an uncommitted voter from Ohio who hopes to buy the plumbing business he has worked for. His claim to fame came from talking heatedly with Obama at a rally after learning that Obama’s economic plan would raise taxes on small businesses like the one Joe wants to buy. In what could be called either a Freudian slip or a life preserver to the McCain campaign, Obama bluntly responded to Joe by telling him that the higher taxes would not be punishment for success, but instead a way to, “spread the wealth around.”

McCain seized this opportunity, and from that point on proved that when the Maverick is good in debates, he is very, very good. He was able to put Obama on the defensive from the start, and build some much needed momentum for the rest of the debate. Furthermore, McCain took one of Obama’s key attacks and flipped it on its head in his most memorable line of the night: “I am not President Bush. If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago.” Obama never fully recovered, and Joe the Plumber gave McCain a big advantage.

Following a string of back and forth questions about the economy and whether either candidate really was capable of bucking their party’s leadership, Schieffer threw McCain and Obama a curve by asking them why neither had lived up to their promise of a clean campaign. Unfortunately, about the only meaningful result of this trip back into the mud was McCain’s ability to bring up Obama’s affiliation with the recently scandalized ACORN. This episode stands as the low point in an otherwise well moderated debate.

McCain continued to perturb the normally stoic Senator Obama in the second half of the debate, and Obama’s nervous chuckle during some of Senator McCain’s rebuttals looked decidedly un-Presidential. Additionally, McCain

caught Obama using weasel words and adding dubious qualifiers to his statements, noting how Barack claimed that he supported off-shore drilling simply by the virtue of his willingness to, “look at it,” as a source of energy.

That’s not to say that McCain was always flawless, as Obama’s statements were as a rule more eloquent than McCain’s. Similarly, no matter how many times McCain has been nailed by pundits for looking uncomfortable around Obama, he continued to reveal his disdain for his adversary through body language and words.

When the issue of health care came up, Obama gained the edge as McCain focused too much time on explaining how his opponents’ plan would lead to a bigger and less efficient government, without focusing enough on the benefits of his own plan. However, the fact that the Illinois Democrat had to devote some of his time to addressing Joe the plumber alone demonstrates the brilliance of McCain’s debate strategy.

After each candidate had adequately convinced every senior citizen in the country that the other’s health care plan would hang them out to dry, Bob Schieffer directed them to the topics of Supreme Court appointees, Roe vs. Wade, and eventually abortion in general. McCain’s firm stance against judicial activism and his reasoning behind it held more water than Obama’s support of everything about judicial activism but the name, though whether voter’s will agree largely depend on how successful the candidates were in backing up their positions.

In that case, McCain’s success in bringing up another part of Obama’s record probably had conservatives pumping their fists with glee (at least that’s how this conservative reacted). Pointing to Obama’s vote of ‘present’ in an Illinois Senate vote that would have required medical care for any child born alive during

an attempted abortion, McCain stressed how he and his wife had adopted a child. While Obama’s counter argument for judges who are concerned with the opinions of the day involved a dismissed lawsuit of a woman who sued because of pay discrimination, McCain was able to respond that the case in question had more to do with the statute of limitations than judicial fairness. Score another one for the Maverick.

The final question about education revealed nothing new, and both candidates had rather lackluster closing statements, with McCain poorly rehashing part of his excellent conclusion from the past debate and Obama taking a page out of Bob Dole’s playbook by asking for the viewer’s votes. Overall though, Obama tried to play the role of a nonplussed leader but came off looking all too vulnerable to tough questions, while McCain used the night to mount attacks on Obama while advancing his own views.

In the end though, I look at what both candidates did after the debate as a revealing measure of their personality. After shaking hands and meeting their wives, both Senators stood waving to the crowd, but while Obama looked stoic, McCain was enthusiastic, almost jumping to shake Bob Schieffer’s hand. McCain’s eagerness looked reassuring, no doubt stemming from an idea of, “I’ve been through tough times before, and I’m not about to let every little red phone crisis shake my belief in America’s might.”

With the media predicting doom and gloom from stock markets, terrorists, or ‘record breaking profits’ at oil companies, McCain’s level of experience and well grounded optimism for the future are exactly what American’s want to see in their next leader. Once you look past Obama’s eloquent words, as McCain did Wednesday night, you find a lack of substance to Obama’s campaign promises. John McCain wins this one because while Barack Obama showed America he knows how to campaign, McCain showed he knows how to lead.

Joe Maurer is a member of the Class of 2012.

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

Family Unions and Reunions

By Praveen Rathinavelu
ARTS EDITOR

Rachel Getting Married
Directed by Jonathan Demme
Written by Jenny Lumet
Starring Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt,
Debra Winger, and Bill Irwin
Rated R
Now Playing in Limited Release

Almost a year ago, I reviewed Noah Baumbach's *Margot at the Wedding*: a film about a damaged and grotesquely self-involved woman, Margot, returning to her childhood home to attend her sister's wedding. The family collapses and rebuilds over the course of film, with Margot always at its center. At a cursory glance, Jonathan Demme's new film, *Rachel Getting Married*, is the exact same story.

It's entirely to Demme's credit that he can take what should have been a nearly identical film to Baumbach's, and allow it to transcend genre in a way *Margot* couldn't. Baumbach's *Margot* was a sharp, witty, and extremely thoughtful film — an adept exploration of family. But watching *Rachel Getting Married* makes deeply apparent everything that *Margot* lacks; Demme's film has both technical subtlety and emotional grace, and gives its characters the freedom to move through the movie with complete honesty.

Margot was clearly the work of a skilled director; it is brisk and intelligent. What separates Demme — what makes him great — is his ability to invest *Rachel* with such vigorous humanity.

The film would sometimes subtly switch to footage from the cameras of characters within the movie, particularly the groom's cousin and the wedding photographer.

The film chronicles the wedding of its title character Rachel (Rosemarie DeWitt), but as the title shrewdly pokes at, the film itself and the characters within it are largely occupied with the return of Rachel's sister Kym (Anne Hathaway) from rehab. Demme's film seamlessly shifts its focus between these two somewhat predictable indie-movie tropes: the small, truthful family portrait, and the intense, "provocative" depiction of a drug addict.

Demme acknowledges that these themes are each only a fraction of any sort of reality, and lets the movie grapple between being a celebration of family and union, and a meditation on human weakness and loss. It's this tension that gives the film its breadth and honesty: we see its characters at their most tender moments, but also at their darkest and most abject.

Rachel Getting Married is particularly effective because of its rigorous and brilliantly executed documentary style: it is filmed almost entirely on handheld D.V. cameras. The movie's scenes are mainly composed of large, only loosely scripted family gatherings, and the director of photography, Declan Quinn allowed multiple cameramen to roam the scenes freely, picking up unexpected moments and conversations. The film would sometimes subtly switch to footage from the cameras of characters within the movie, particularly the groom's cousin and the wedding photographer.

Similarly, the soundtrack of the film comes from within the scenes themselves: the wedding musicians music seeps wonderfully into every scene. The actors themselves had little indication of when the camera was on and what was being filmed, and were compelled to respond intuitively and honestly to the scenes around them.

The film is devoted to capturing and incorporating every character in its scenes, even if they only have a single line, or are simply dancing in the corner. There are some stunning individual performances, but Demme depends on the humanity and honesty in every single one of his characters to build his film and give it its weight. Focusing on individual actors — no matter how good they are — seems to distract from what makes *Rachel Getting Married* so great.

CONCERT REVIEW

Bringing Music Back Alive

Two Perspectives on MITSO's Season-Opening Concert



SHERRY YAN—THE TECH

By Sudeep Agarwala

When did classical music become boring? It's not hard to understand why it is: music is taught at schools on a pedestal lower than, yet not distinct from calculus, English literature or honors French. It's been mummified beyond recognition — at some point, students are asked not to listen to music, but to *understand* the music — in fact, there are musical rules, drills and practices that students must complete with stoic integrity, an entire body of history to digest and, if you can imagine — *exams*, even.

As a proud product of this system, I feel I can't complain. As little as I'd like to believe it, there's a sense to all of this education, but part of me can't help but feel that this Spartan training does more harm for the form than it helps educate. Its proponents only act to exacerbate the situation: classical music stations somehow endow their radio announcers with precise diction and stiff, wooden personalities and it's no secret that the best way to feel incredibly young and poor is to attend a recital at Symphony Hall the Gardner Museum or any of the various musical venues in or around Boston.

In this suffocating context, the MITSO concert on Friday, Oct. 10, in Kresge Hall was a breath of fresh air. The auditorium was virtually crackling with energy from audience members as director Adam Boyles charged onto stage and drove the orchestra in a thrilling performance of Antonin Dvorák's *Carnival Overture* (Op. 92).

The conductor makes a real difference: Friday's concert marks the beginning of the second season that Boyles has been working with the MITSO and the results have been consistently amazing. Boyles's MITSO is vibrant, excited and exciting and *Carnival* was no exception. Boyles, conducting without a score for the entire concert (a feat most conductors only strive for), confidently led the orchestra through the second of Dvorák's *Nature, Life and Love* overtures. His dynamism was reflected in the orchestra from the phrasing of long melodic lines traded from section to section to the remarkably clean Alberti bass motive that appeared throughout the string sections.

Prokofiev was no different. It certainly didn't seem like it was going to be: the third piano concerto begins in a pensive orchestral reverie. This, however, has little to do with the rest of the piece: the piano enters and quickly transforms the piece into a thrilling and high-energy dialogue. Matthew A. Serna '09 negotiated the considerable third piano concerto with devastating ability.

Certainly, moments between the orchestra and soloist seemed unsteady in the first movement and the balance between the piano and the orchestra was skewed such that the orchestra often obfuscated some of Serna's detailed piano work. However, Serna was able to compensate for these issues and more: the second movement of the concerto, a theme and variation between piano and orchestra, was virtuosic in its conception and performance.

Serna struck a fair balance in this movement, emphasizing the melody of the theme but found a fair balance with Prokofiev's hair-raising coun-

Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Antonin Dvorák

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C, Op. 26

Sergey Prokofiev

Punkie Night (2006)

Peter Child

Sinfonia Sevillana, Op. 23

Joaquín Turina

MIT Symphony Orchestra

Kresge Auditorium, MIT

Friday, Oct. 10, 2008

terpoint. The energy that was building throughout the performance of the concerto culminated in the final movement, the conclusion of which received a well-earned standing ovation for both soloist and orchestra.

The second portion of Friday night's performance began with a composition from MIT faculty member Peter Child, *Punkie Night*, conceived and composed based off a folk tradition similar to that of Halloween. Although requiring audience participation, the piece itself seem to fail in the context of the concert—melodic lines meandered and never presented a solid thesis. A difficult work, the piece may have been more successful on a second or third hearing.

The highlight of the second portion was, by far, Joaquín Turina's *Sinfonia Sevillana* (Op. 23). The only major Spanish symphony of the early nineteenth century, Turina utilizes a musical palette dense with melodies indigenous to his homeland. Here, Boyles provided a brief introduction to the piece, familiarizing the audience with the central *leitmotif* of the symphony.

These five minutes were invaluable to the audience's appreciation of the music, providing the audience with context with which to understand the music: this melody is beautifully expounded upon and modified throughout the three movements of the piece, starting with a slow, evocative description of the Spanish landscape in *Panorama*, ending in the festive *Fiesta en San Juan de Aznalfarache*. A difficult piece, there was a sense of absolute commitment to the music from both conductor and orchestra as they depicted Turina's nostalgic images of Spain.

The overall effect of Friday evening's concert, of course, was one of exhilaration. MITSO's opening concert provided apt challenges to its audience while maintaining a sense of fun throughout the entire evening — most illustrative of this sense was the close of *Sinfonia Sevillana*, at which point, the woman sitting behind me simply gasped "Wonderful."

It was, of course, wonderful: wonderful to see MITSO provide such an engrossing concert, wonderful not to be the youngest and poorest in the seats, but, instead, to see a rapt, engaged audience absorbed in exciting music — a refreshing change from the droll, somnolent intellectual space that this wonderful music usually inhabits that left me wishing that more concerts were like this one. Though this was one of the largest audiences I have seen at Kresge Hall, it was still a pity to see even a single seat left empty.

By Sam Markson

Modern classical performance is often a rigid form — a study of strict tempos, pitches, and moods. The performers take it upon themselves to recreate the vision of the original artist, and as that artist is usually dead, that recreation can become a study in accuracy rather than exploration — what *not* to play, rather than *what* to play.

Unless it's done well, of course.

In music, as with college-age social gatherings, there's a fine line between recreation and regurgitation. Capturing the intended feel is much more than following directions. To get an 80-person orchestra to sync up to a cohesive emotional message takes time, effort and soul. And I'm happy to say that MITSO has some of that.

Opening their concert with Dvorák's *Carnival Overture*, the group instantly turned away from the outside world and toward that of music, with the audience following suit. The performance was solid, and an excellent opener — perhaps the most recognizable piece of the night, and a palatable choice for the as-yet-untuned ear. Conductor Adam Boyles's performance here was strikingly energetic, but still precise enough to lend the orchestra a startlingly unified sound: here were not eighty individuals, but one voice, and one message.

Next up was Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3, featuring soloist Matthew A. Serna '09. Following half a century later, Prokofiev's music is much less defined than Dvorák's, and the concert order here did much to accentuate the better parts of the latter piece. The flowing, dreamlike quality of Prokofiev's music was well-realized by Serna, with good interplay between piano and orchestra. Boyles added just the right touches to perfect the natural shifts in rhythmic and sonic intensity, leading the audience from semi-cadence to semi cadence without ever resolving completely.

After the intermission, Boyles introduced the next piece, MIT Professor Peter B. Child's 2006 Composition "Punkie Night," a musical tribute to an English Halloween-like custom. Asking for audience participation, Boyles explained the rules: make ghoulish noises on cue, and decrescendo slowly on command. More light-hearted and jaunty than the previous pieces, this work had the added bonus of being incompletely rehearsed — thus, the orchestra had no difficulty making "Punkie Night" seem fresh to the audience. Excellent contrast between the rapidity in the upper strings and the booming ostinatos within the low brass — all in all, a fun, succinct work.

Finally came *Sinfonia Sevillana*, a work by the relatively obscure Spanish composer Joaquín Turina. The perfect closer, the *Sinfonia* had all the best of defiant grandeur and restrained agony, a "tone poem" to a country. Oscillating between heart-rending solo lines, full orchestral melodies, and grandiose conclusions, the piece was a cinematic masterpiece. It ended, and all of Kresge exhaled in time.

After a good performance, one thinks, "I don't think that could have been any better." After a great performance, you don't think. You only feel. The music has transcended the paper, so that it's more than time signatures and breath marks. That's the office of live music.

And that's what MITSO supplied.

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 Marsh grass
- 6 Scandinavian capital
- 10 Makes a move
- 14 Traction aid
- 15 Lat. list-ender
- 16 Lima's land
- 17 Go-between
- 18 Surrealist Salvador
- 19 Jack Horner's find
- 20 Jimmy Buffett hit
- 23 Corp. VIP
- 24 Mimic
- 25 Eden evictee
- 26 Vegan fare
- 28 Spoils
- 32 Polk's predecessor
- 35 Chop _
- 37 Miss the mark
- 38 Andrews Sisters hit
- 42 Glum
- 43 Ala. neighbor
- 44 Hold it, sailor!
- 45 Troop group
- 48 Top-rated
- 50 Ming of the NBA
- 51 New Deal pres.
- 52 Get out of bed

- 56 Subtitle of a Rupert Holmes hit (with "The")
- 60 Tailless cat
- 61 Norwegian king
- 62 Change labels
- 63 A single time
- 64 California valley
- 65 Mild cigar
- 66 Shooter ammo
- 67 _ the line (obeys)
- 68 Superman's pal Jimmy
- DOWN**
- 1 Little rascal
- 2 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- 3 Plow pioneer
- 4 Career criminal
- 5 Blues vocalist James
- 6 Drama by Sophocles
- 7 Cabinet department
- 8 Refrain syllables
- 9 Popeye's girl
- 10 Cameos and pippins
- 11 Slammer cubicle
- 12 In alignment
- 13 Addition solution

- 21 Brit. flyboys
- 22 Now _ seen everything!
- 27 Sphere
- 28 "Thelma and Louise" co-star
- 29 Actor Lugosi
- 30 Boats like Noah's
- 31 Confound it!
- 32 Recipe meas.
- 33 Slangy okay
- 34 Spartan queen
- 36 Fancy vase with a base
- 39 Free of charge
- 40 Trash in a review
- 41 Hype too much
- 46 Short-tailed wildcats
- 47 Penlight battery
- 49 Fort _, CA
- 51 Calgary NHLer
- 53 Teensy bits
- 54 Part of a drum set
- 55 Incite
- 56 Window piece
- 57 Royal Peruvian
- 58 Potpourri
- 59 Sacramento arena
- 60 Swabbie's tool

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63						64				65				
66						67				68				

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

In your opinion, what single measure could Bush take to increase his approval ratings the most?

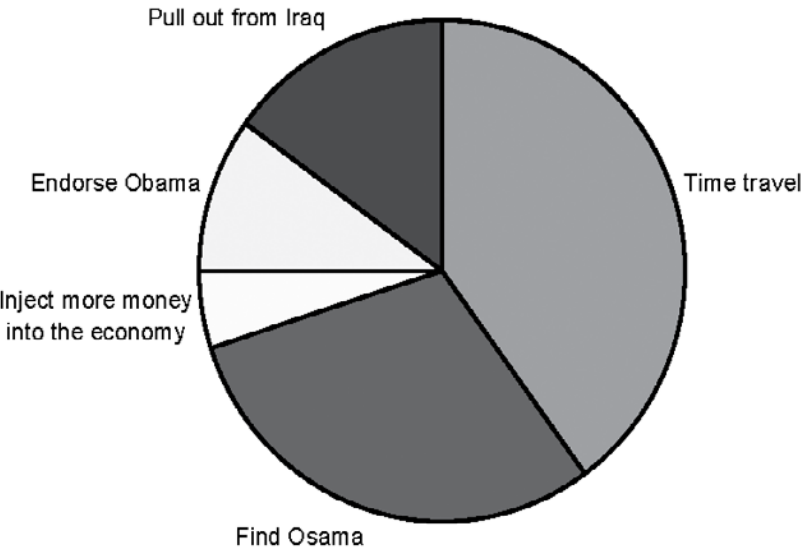


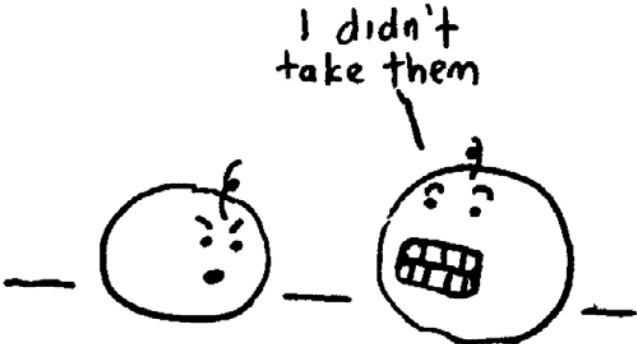
Figure 40. The data for the above chart was obtained from surveying 1000 people across the country. Pulling out from Iraq or finding Osama Bin Laden are feasible, but quite improbable, while time travel is physically impossible (and even then, we are not assured that Bush would not fall in the same mistakes twice). Endorsing Obama would increase his ratings not entirely because the candidate is becoming more popular, but more so indirectly by giving the public a sense of repentance.



Blobbles

by Jason Chan

GIVE ME BACK MY DENTURES!



Thanks to Murtaza Nek for today's caption. Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send it to blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I'll draw a cartoon for it!

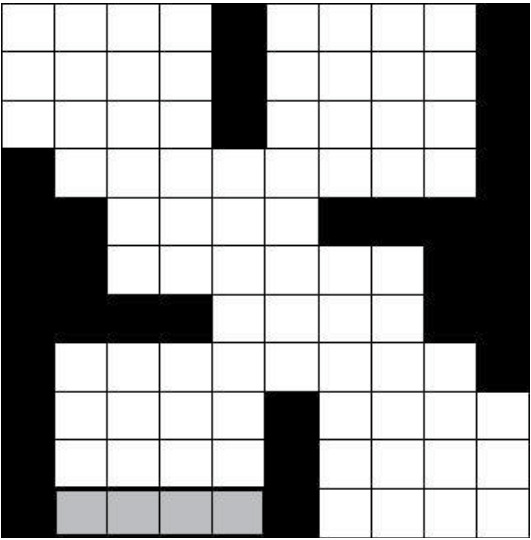
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 10.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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	2		7			8	

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>



- (Acquisition, Tracking, and Pointing XX)
- (Advances in Optical Structure Systems) x 5
- (Biomedical Optoelectronics in Clinical Chemistry and Biotechnology) x 3
- (Characterization, Propagation, and Simulation of Sources and Backgrounds II) x 241
- (Color Imaging VIII: Processing, Hardcopy, and Applications)/2
- (Gradient Index, Miniature, and Diffractive Optical Systems)
- (Head-Mounted Displays) x 307
- (ICONO '95: Fundamentals of Laser-Matter Interaction) x 2
- (Imaging Spectrometry VIII)/7
- (Instruments for Optics and Optoelectronic Inspection and Control) x (Medical Imaging 1999: PACS Design and Evaluation: Engineering and Clinical Issues)
- (Intelligent Manufacturing)
- (Investigative Image Processing II) x (Optomechatronic Computer-Vision Systems II) x 2

- (Laser Diode Technology and Applications II) x 7
- (Laser Interferometry VIII: Applications) x (Laser Optics '95: Biomedical Applications of Lasers) x 3
- (Laser Source and System Technology for Defense and Security II)/4
- (Lasers in Urology, Gynecology, and General Surgery) x 3
- (Machine Vision Applications, Architectures, and Systems Integration III) x 2
- (New Frontiers in Stellar Interferometry) x 148
- (Ophthalmic Technologies VI) x 3
- (Optical Diagnostics of Living Cells V) x 34
- (Optical Fiber and Fiber Component Mechanical Reliability and Testing) x 2
- (Optical Manufacturing and Testing IV) x (Storage and Retrieval for Image and Video Databases II) x 5
- (Optics in Atmospheric Propagation and Adaptive Systems VII)/2
- (Photochemistry: Photodynamic Therapy and Other Modalities) x 2
- (ANSWER WOULD GO HERE)
- (Quantum Dots, Nanoparticles, and Nanoclusters)/3
- (Saratov Fall Meeting 2004: Optical Technologies in Biophysics and Medicine VI)
- (Selected Papers from International Conference on Optics and Optoelectronics '98) x 89
- (Solid State Crystals in Optoelectronics and Semiconductor Technology) x 2
- (Stray Radiation in Optical Systems) x 5
- (Three-Dimensional Image Capture and Applications VII)/8
- (Tribute to Warren Smith: A Legacy in Lens Design and Optical Engineering)
- (Videometrics II) x 3

Think you've solved it?

Use Libraries resources to solve this puzzle. If you're an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to libraries.mit.edu/puzzle to get a copy or submit your answer by October 21, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.



Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo



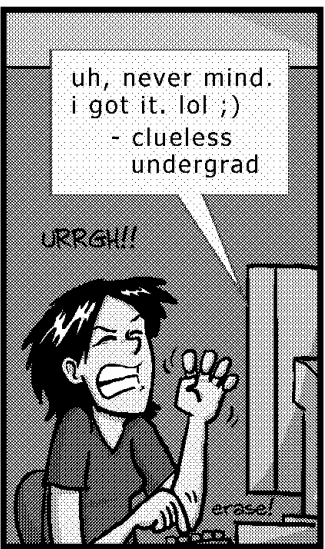
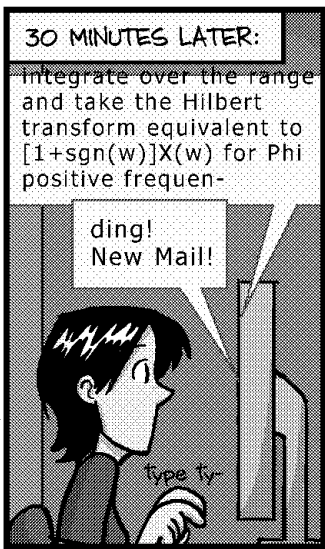
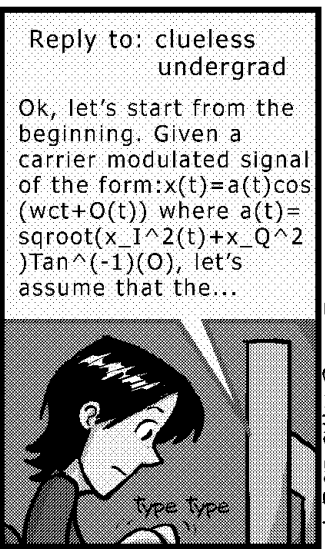
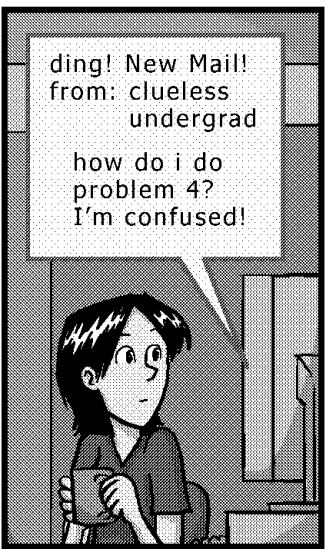
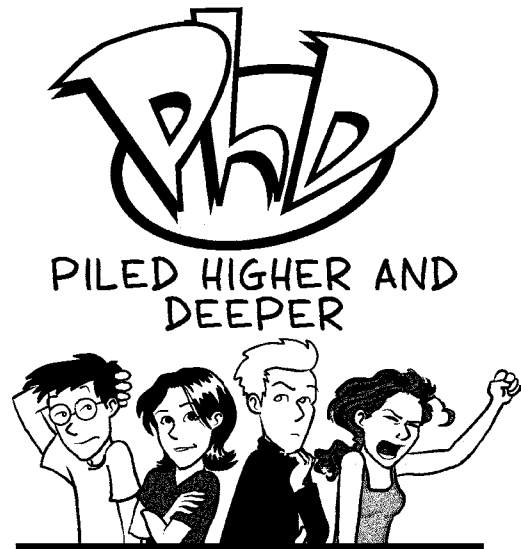
Bonus
Sudoku

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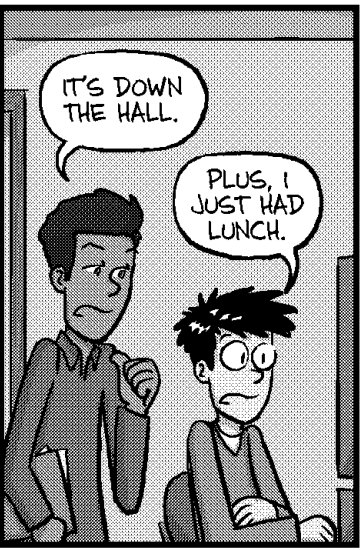
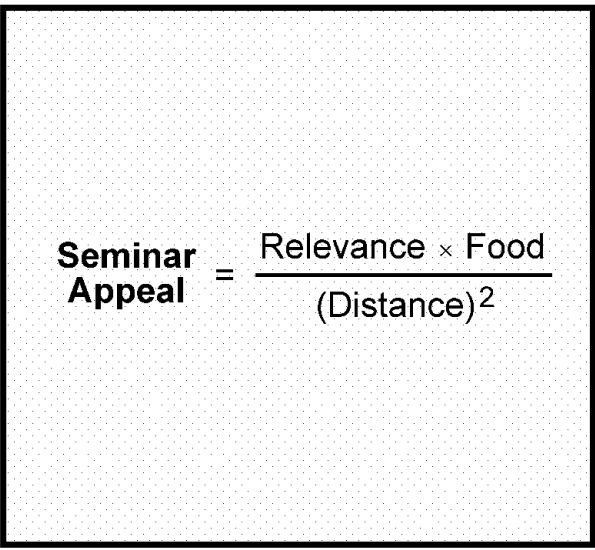
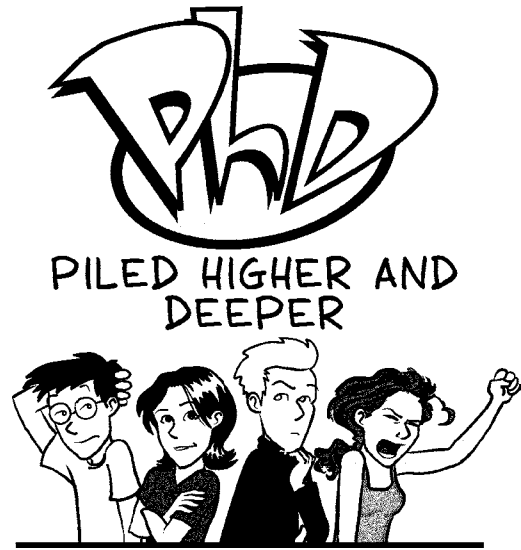
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 13.

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				5				

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>



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Professors Prescribe Remedies to Revive An Anemic Economy

Economy, from Page 1

still have value to get back on their feet.”

To preserve long-term economic stability, Lo recommends better insurance measures and the development of rescue packages.

In an economy panel on Oct. 8, William Wheaton, a professor of economics at MIT, explained that instead of trying to keep people in their homes, stable house prices should be achieved.

But despite slim prospects, plans are in motion to alleviate the stress on the economy. The government is now instituting multiple plans to infuse into the economy, including the hotly debated \$700 billion “bailout” plan.

As part of the bailout plan, the Treasury Department has outlined five steps that will supposedly mediate the crisis. In a press release, top Treasury Official Neel Kashkari described these measures as purchasing equity in a range of financial institutions, buying troubled mortgage-backed securities, purchasing mortgages from banks, insuring assets so that banks don’t lose money in case borrowers are unable to pay, and exhausting every possible means to keep borrowers that default in their homes.

With the plan in place, Caballero said that in the best-case scenario, there will only be around 3 to 4 more quarters of financial difficulty.

Lo said that three years of recession probably lie ahead.

“The natural reaction is to panic, but there is hope at the end,” said Caballero.

Solution to Sudoku								
from page 8								
2	4	5	6	9	8	7	1	3
7	6	1	3	5	2	4	9	8
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Economic Crisis Hits Hard for Tuition-Paying Families

By Jonathan D. Glater
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In difficult dinner-table conversations, college students and their parents are revisiting how to pay tuition as their personal finances weaken and lenders get tough.

Diana and Ronnie Jacobs, of Salem, Ind., thought their family had a workable plan for college for her twin sons, using a combination of savings, income, scholarship aid and a relatively modest amount of borrowing. Then her husband lost his job at Colgate-Palmolive.

"It just seems like it's really hard, because it is," Jacobs, an information technology specialist, said of her financial situation. "I have two kids in college and I want to say 'come home,' but at the same time I want to provide them with a good education."

The Jacobs family may be a harbinger of what is to come. Jacobs pressed the schools' financial offices for several thousand dollars more for each son's final year of college, and each son increased his borrowing to the maximum amount through the federal loan program. So they at least will be able to finish at their respective colleges — instead of switching to less expensive schools or attending one where they could live at home — though they will have more debt upon graduation.

With the unemployment rate rising and a recession mentality gripping the country, financial aid administrators say that expect many more calls like the one from Jacobs. More families are applying for federal aid, and a recent survey found that an increasing portion of families expect to need student loans. College administrators worry that as fresh cracks appear in family finances they will not have enough aid money to go around, given that their own endowment returns are disappointing, states are making cutbacks and fundraising will become more difficult.

"We are looking ahead and trying to be prepared for what might be coming," said Jon Riester, associate dean of financial assistance at Hanover College, a private institution with about 1,000 undergraduates, including Justin Keeton, one of Jacobs' sons. "We're looking internally at our own budgets to see what we may be able to do in terms of providing additional assistance to students under various situations."

The concern is widespread, even though college officials say it's too soon to quantify how many students will face a shortfall. Even at wealthy institutions, financial aid administrators have begun weighing contingency plans. "Part of the conversation that's going on now in many institutions is, do we want to put a dollar figure on how much we are willing to extend ourselves," said L. Katharine Harrington, dean of admission and financial aid at the University of Southern California.

Harrington said she opposed setting a limit on aid, but added that the university's pockets were not bottomless. "If we start seeing massive layoffs," she added, "we may be in for a real bumpy ride."

The credit crisis has made it harder for students and their parents to borrow, even as their needs grow and their savings accounts dwindle. In plenty of cases, students who had been borrowing on their own have had to ask parents — and in some cases, other relatives and friends — to help cover tuition or to cosign loans, both aid officials and lenders say.

Officials at most four-year colleges, say that they have not seen rampant problems so far, because students had found alternatives. The financing for the fall semester was mostly in place many months ago, before the severity of the credit crisis and the economic downturn became apparent.

Others wonder privately whether there will a rebellion by parents

about paying so much for education if the country's economic distress is prolonged. A survey of nearly 3,000 parents by Fidelity Investments released earlier this month found that 62 percent of parents plan to use student loans to help fund expenses, up from 53 percent last year.

Jacobs said that with a family income of more than \$100,000 a year, they had been counting on some loans to help pay for college for her 21-year-old sons, Justin and Jacob Keeton. Tuition, room and board add up to just over \$32,000 at Hanover, which Justin attends, and nearly \$29,500 at Franklin College, which Jacob attends.

Then, in December, Colgate-Palmolive closed its Jeffersonville plant, where her husband worked.

"I said, this year the loans are going to have to be in your name, I'm not going to be able to pick up as much as I have before," Jacobs recalled. "They said they would be willing to put the student loans in their names and continue on. We all came to that consensus, but I hate it because I hate for them to come out of school with \$20,000 in student loans," Jacobs added. "To me that is so much money."

She also called the two colleges, and each contributed about \$3,000 more in aid, she said.

Financial aid administrators have been scrambling in a rapidly

changing market, as many companies have decided that student loans are just not profitable enough. Many student loan providers, citing reduced profit margins and greater difficulty selling loans, have stopped making federally guaranteed loans, private loans or both.

Federal loans account for about three-quarters of student borrowing, and the government has assured that money will flow uninterrupted by agreeing to buy those loans, even if fewer companies are in the business. Federal loan volume is likely to grow this year; the number of applications for federal aid so far this year has risen to 13.5 million, up nearly 10 percent from 12.3 million a year earlier.

Private lending, which helps families to plug the gap between federal aid and the total cost of attendance, has been the fastest growing segment over the last decade but has been undergoing rapid changes. Some of the biggest lenders, like Sallie Mae, have tightened their credit standards and raised their interest rates yet again in recent weeks. "The current financial markets provide no other choice," Sallie Mae wrote to colleges last week. "When conditions improve, we hope to relax our underwriting criteria and serve more students."

Tim Ranzetta, the founder of Student Lending Analytics, posted

the lender's letter on his blog, where he called it "extremely bad news for students."

Michaela Rice, a sophomore at Plymouth State University, is one of the students who had to redesign her borrowing after she learned in the spring that a student loan she had taken out with her father as cosigner would evaporate because the lender was getting out of that business. A financial aid specialist at Plymouth State, which has about 4,300 undergraduates in Plymouth, N.H., suggested the family switch to federal parent loans.

That led Rice to ask her mother, who is divorced from her father, to take on \$17,000 in debt. The new loan, called a parent PLUS loan, has a more flexible repayment options and a fixed 8.5 percent interest rate. But it also puts her mother at risk if Rice does not earn enough as a teacher to cover repayments.

The subject touched on other sensitive issues — in this case, the question of how Rice's biological father might continue to help pay for her college education and what her stepfather's role should be.

Rice's mother, Judy Krahulec, remarried to an American Airlines pilot who already had children of his own, and she did not want to saddle him with debt for children that were not his. She and Rice hesitated over the parent loan.

"It would be in my mom's name," Rice, who said she would repay her mother, said, "but it's my stepdad's money if anything went wrong."

She was lucky, though, because not all students' parents qualify for PLUS loans. To satisfy companies that make private loans, more students have had to find cosigners.

Kiara S. Holiday, a sophomore at High Point University in High Point, N.C., learned just weeks before classes were to start that her mother had not qualified for a PLUS loan.

"It threw me for a loop," said Holiday, who is 19. "Person after person, they just denied, like my mother, my aunts."

Holiday said she investigated the options. But even taking advantage of larger maximum federal Stafford loan amounts that are available to students whose parents are denied PLUS loans, she did not have enough to cover about \$31,000 in tuition, room and board at High Point.

So she called her great grandmother, an octogenarian in Boston. Holiday, who wants to go to medical school and become an immunologist in a laboratory, said that despite the poor economy, she was not worried about being able to pay her debts after graduation.

"I'm pretty sure something will work out for me," Holiday said.



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Post on Flame War Removed From MIT Admission Blog Site

MIT Blogs, from Page 1

the MIT campus to the public admissions front. It was removed at the request of the Admissions Office.

At a recent alumni conference, Schmill stated that blogs were not censored. In an interview, he clarified this statement by saying that beyond the flame war post, Admissions does not censor the blogs. Snively mentioned that Schmill was likely unaware of a second controversial post about breast cancer that was removed.

"It didn't help the pre-frosh at all, it didn't explain anything about MIT, and that's why that was removed," Snively said.

According to Stuart Schmill '86, Dean of Admissions, the posting "was basically starting a flame war on our blogs, and we didn't think [the blogs] were the most appropriate place for that flame war to occur." Following the original entry's removal, a follow-up post was made discussing the politics of Ring Committee, the mailing lists, and flame wars as a part of MIT culture.

The second controversial blog post, written by Snively in September, discussed breast cancer and the release of the computer game Spore. It was viewed as inappropriate to place the release of a computer game within the same frame as breast cancer, seen as a more serious topic. The post featured a mock up of a t-shirt with the phrase "I <heart> Boobs", the heart replaced by a pink breast cancer ribbon. Many commenters said

that the article was unfit for an admissions blog and would be more suitable for a personal blog. Snively pulled the post on his own several hours after it initially appeared.

"A lot of people were upset that I mentioned breast cancer and Spore in the same post ... there were too many upset people for not enough cause," he said. Snively removed the post before Matthew L. McGann '00, Associate Director of Admissions, asked him to review the post. Snively then took a week's hiatus from blogging.

When the admissions blogging system was launched as "MIT-Blogs" in November 2004, it represented a pioneering attempt to bring more reality to the admissions landscape. Today, bloggers seem to be permitted to post even negative information about MIT as long as they show different sides of the Institute as it actually exists. Posts are made directly by the bloggers, without any intermediate editing or approval by the admissions office, and revisions are made independently by the bloggers.

"There's a lot of trust between admissions and us [the bloggers]," Snively said. "They're trusting us not to post anything that is really, really bad."

Schmill said that the blogs offer a unique look inside MIT. "We recognize that there will be and there have been things that the students say are not positive about their MIT experience. We're not out there encouraging them to write negative things, but we accept it and it's one thing that makes the blogs as valuable as they are," said Schmill.

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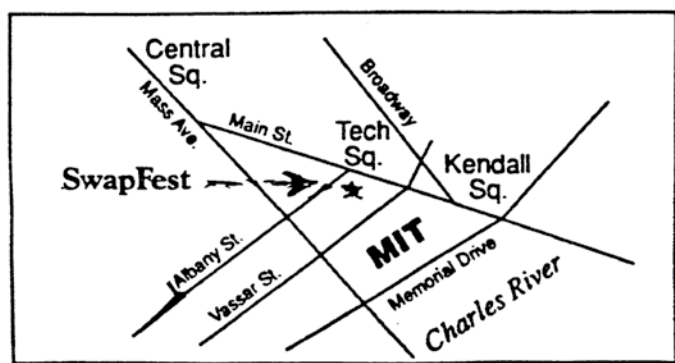
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Math Skills Suffer in U.S., New Study Finds

By Sara Rimer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The United States is failing to develop the math skills of both girls and boys, especially among those who could excel at the highest levels, a new study asserts, and girls who do succeed in the field are almost all immigrants or the daughters of immigrants from countries where mathematics is more highly valued.

The study suggests that while many girls have exceptional talent in math — the talent to become top math researchers, scientists and engineers — they are rarely identified in the United States. A major reason, according to the study, is that American culture does not highly value talent in math, and so discourages girls — and boys, for that matter — from excelling in the field. The study will be published Friday in Notices of the American Mathematical Society.

“We’re living in a culture that is telling girls you can’t do math — that’s telling everybody that only Asians and nerds do math,” said the study’s lead author, Janet E. Mertz, an oncology professor at the University of Wisconsin, whose son is a winner of what is viewed as the world’s most-demanding math competitions. “Kids in high school, where social interactions are really important, think, ‘If I’m not an Asian or a nerd, I’d better not be on the math team.’ Kids are self-selecting. For social reasons they’re not even trying.”

Many studies have examined and debated gender differences and math, but most rely on the results of the SAT and other standardized tests, Dr. Mertz and many mathematicians say. But those tests were never intended to measure the dazzling creativity, insight and reasoning skills required to solve math problems at the highest levels, Dr. Mertz and others say.

Dr. Mertz asserts that the new study is the first to examine data from the most difficult math competitions for young people, including the USA and International Mathematical Olympiads for high school students, and the Putnam Mathematical Competition for college undergraduates. For winners of these competitions, the Michael Phelps and Kobe Bryants of math, getting an 800 on the math SAT is routine. The study found that many students from the United States in these competitions are immigrants or children of immigrants from countries where education in mathematics is prized and mathematical talent is thought to be widely distributed and able to be cultivated through hard work and persistence.

The International Olympiad, which began in Romania in 1959, is considered to be the world’s toughest math competition for high school students. About 500 students from as many as 95 countries compete each year, with contestants solving six problems in nine hours. (Question 5 from the 1996 test was famously difficult, with only six students out of several hundred able to solve it

fully.)

The United States has competed in the Olympiad since 1974. Its six-member teams are selected over years of high-level contests, and trained during intensive summer math camps.

One two-time Olympiad gold medalist, 22-year-old Daniel M. Kane, now a graduate student at Harvard, is the son of Dr. Mertz and her husband, Jonathan M. Kane, a professor of mathematics and computer science at the University of Wisconsin, and a co-author of the study. The other two co-authors are Joseph A. Gallian, a math professor at the University of Minnesota and president of the Mathematical Association of America, and Titu Andreescu, a professor of math education at the University of Texas at Dallas and a former leader of the United States Olympiad team.

All members of the United States team were boys until 1998, when 16-year-old Melanie Wood, a cheerleader, student newspaper editor and math whiz from a private school in Indianapolis, made the team. She won a silver medal, missing the gold by a single point. Since then, two female high school students, Alison Miller, from upstate New York, and Sherry Gong, whose parents emigrated to the United States from China, have made the United States team (they both won gold).

By comparison, relatively small Bulgaria has sent 21 girls to the competition since 1959 (six since 1988), according to the study, and since 1974 the highly ranked Bulgarian, East German/German and Soviet Union/Russian IMO teams have included 9, 10 and 13 girls respectively. “What most of these countries have in common,” the study says, “are rigorous national mathematics curricula along with cultures and educational systems that value, encourage and support students who excel in mathematics.”

Ms. Wood is now 27 and completing her doctorate in math at Princeton University. “There’s just a stigma in this country about math being really hard and feared, and people who do it being strange,” she said in a telephone interview. “It’s particularly hard for girls, especially at the ages when people start doing competitions. If you look at schools, there is often a social group of nerdy boys. There’s that image of what it is to be a nerdy boy in mathematics. It’s still in some way socially unacceptable for boys, but at least it’s a position and it’s clearly defined.”

Solution to Bonus Sudoku														
from page 9														
9	1	5	7	4	6	3	2	8						
2	7	4	5	8	3	1	9	6						
3	6	8	9	1	2	7	5	4						
8	3	7	6	9	5	4	1	2						
4	9	6	2	7	1	5	8	3						
1	5	2	8	3	4	9	6	7						
5	2	9	3	6	7	8	4	1						
7	8	1	4	2	9	6	3	5						
6	4	3	1	5	8	2	7	9						



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Mozart Quintet in E-flat for piano and winds, K.452

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All are invited to attend.



Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means “bridge”. In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.

This event is co-sponsored by MISTI – <http://mit.edu/misti> – and will include a brief overview of how MISTI provides MIT students with opportunities to connect to cultures in other countries.

Some in Community Resist ‘Nerd’; Others Embrace It

By Tracy Jan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Students wear circuit boards on their sweatshirts and sing in a cappella groups with names like Logarithms and Chorallaries. They run a model railroad club. It meets on Saturday nights.

It's just life as usual at MIT, where math jokes draw appreciative chortles and even frat boys pride themselves on engineering high-tech pranks under the cover of darkness.

But enough with the nerdiness.

Intent on debunking the stereotype of MIT as a haven for geeks, some students have taken it upon themselves to inject unexpected edginess — even sexiness — into a campus scene where problem-set sessions often double as social functions.

A six-minute, student-produced webcast called MITHbusters that is posted on a university site features sorority girls, bare-chested male cheerleaders,

and students taking part in athletics and the arts. On the school's admissions site, some students candidly chronicle their lives in blogs to attract an array of potential applicants by showing how well-rounded they are.

Last year, scantily clad students posed for a calendar to raise money for a scholarship fund, following an equally provocative display of skin in another calendar touting “hot geek girls.”

“Just because we work hard in our classes doesn't mean we don't know how to have fun,” said Alberto Mena '09, a civil engineering major from Miami who is president of the school's Interfraternity Council. “We throw a lot of parties — with great risk management, might I add.”

The recent efforts are an attempt to “de-nerdify” the world-class science and engineering school without marring its global reputation as an intellectual haven. Still, the approach has

drawn criticism from certain circles and spurred a fresh debate over the 147-year-old school's identity.

Some students and professors say they are reluctant to de-emphasize the institution's nerdy image. After all, that's what put MIT on the map.

Others embrace the movement but doubt it will get very far. Even the name of an explicit sex column in the school newspaper riffs on the stereotype — “Talk Nerdy to Me.”

“You're just surrounded by so many people here who like to be nerds that if you don't embrace it, you're ostracized,” said Christine Yu '11, a former homecoming princess from West Virginia who inserts geek humor and science analogies as often as possible into the weekly column. “In high school, I didn't really identify with my more nerdy side. MIT has brought it out.”

The political science major with a shopping addiction said she would like

to write a fashion column, but concluded her services in that realm would be unwelcomed. “Most people here are so happy in their free, oversized math and science T-shirts,” Yu said. “They like wearing the periodic table to class.”

Some students point out, however, that there is a dorkiness spectrum, and a marked difference between the socially awkward nerd and a cool, hip geek — a term some on campus consider complimentary.

“MIT is absolutely the place where the nerds and geeks of the world come to live together for four years,” Paul Baranay '11, a biological engineering major, said in the student center en route to meet a friend for a linear algebra problem-set session. “People seem to like the fact that MIT is sort of this nerd farm, this geek reservation. But we don't just spend all our time in our rooms studying.”

Baranay, a sophomore from Indiana

who writes one of the admissions blogs, said his activities reflect interests that students at most universities might cultivate. He belongs to a fraternity, serves on the student government, and edits a student-run research journal.

But other activities feed his inner geek. As a member of the Assassins' Guild, a live-action role-playing society, he spends weekends acting out scenarios he says are full of drama, espionage, and intrigue, “like pretending you're a king trying to find an heir, or the captain of a starship trying to find a safe place to land.”

“We're not normal, and we like it that way,” he said. “To some extent, the world misunderstands us.”

The ground zero of geekiness, some students say, is several blocks away from the main campus, on the first floor of a building adjoining the MIT Museum. That's where, on a recent night, David M. Lambeth G proudly showed off an expansive model train set that generations of students helped build. The computerized locomotives run through elaborate replicas of city and country settings, with tiny figurines of people and animals.

“It's really cool,” said the 26-year-old graduate student in aeronautics and astronautics. “You've got this little miniature world here with trains moving around, and MIT students can appreciate the complex hand-built electronics that go into powering this thing.”

As governor, treasurer, publicity chair, scenery chair, and car and logo chair of the school's renowned model railroad club, Lambeth G spent a weekend diagnosing and cataloging all the mechanical problems in the railcars.

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Trying to Keep Track of Guantánamo? Try SCOTUSBLOG

If you're trying to keep track of information on prisoners held by the U.S. government at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, a great resource is <http://scotusblog.com>, a legal blog about the Supreme Court run by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP.

SCOTUSBLOG has covered issues about so-called “enemy combatants” held at Guantánamo, including the case of the 17 Uighur men who have been recently designated “non-enemy combatants” and ordered to be released into the United States by the D.C. District Court. Their release has been stayed by the Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. District. Briefs on whether the emergency stay will be extended or lifted have just been filed, and the court is expected to decide soon.

SCOTUSBLOG has links to Supreme Court opinions and decisions and thoughtful analysis of them extremely rapidly after they happen. It's the place to go for breaking news on the Court, as well as other major events in legal news.

This reporter has found SCOTUSBLOG an invaluable resource, and encourages you to take a look at it if these issues interest you.

—John A. Hawkinson

Solution to Crossword from page 7

S	E	D	G	E	O	S	L	O	A	C	T	S
C	L	E	A	T	E	T	A	L	P	E	R	U
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P	I	N	A	C	O	L	A	D	A	S	O	N
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O	N	C	E		S	I	M	I		C	L	A
P	E	A	S		T	O	E	S		O	L	S

Energy Grants Fund 17 Projects

Energy, from Page 1

testing and information-gathering phase. Many villagers in Nepal already own solar cookers, which means that Amatya must specially design her project so that it is compatible with multiple setups. With the seed grant funds, Amatya plans to purchase a solar simulator for her lab, allowing her to test her ideas here on campus.

“Instead of using the popular semiconductor of bismuth telluride,” she said, “we plan to use silicon germanium, which can stand up to temperatures of 500–600 degrees Celsius.” Within the next year, Amatya hopes to bring her project to Nepal.

Energy seed grants can amount to as much as \$150,000 over a period of two years. The spending of these funds is unrestricted, giving freedom to project leaders to experiment and test new ideas that could perhaps reinvent current energy-saving strategies.

Another project, led by Cy Chan G of EECS, is developing complex algorithms to simulate and forecast wind intensities. Unlike wind forecasting models that meteorologists depend on today, Chan’s algorithms implement complex computational techniques (such as kernel regressions, Markov random fields, and fluid dynamics) in order to predict the wind.

Chan explained that by creating such models, power utilities can accurately determine when and where the strongest winds will blow. Due to the random and volatile nature of wind, wind-energy can only account for as much as 20 percent of power utility portfolios. By utilizing high-performance computing and large parallel chip-processing systems, Chan plans to base his complex algorithms on years of past meteorological wind-data as well as future national forecasts.

“Right now, we are in the pilot phase of the project,” Chan said. “We started this project three months ago, and we hope to have a functioning product by the end of the semester.”

If Chan’s new computational approach to predict wind intensity successfully models the forecast, power utilities may gain more confidence in wind and allocate a larger portion of its energy profile to this renewable source.

Other notable research projects receiving seed grant funding include high-performance batteries, self-powering electric systems, establishing hydroelectric power in Indonesia, reducing carbon-footprints in urban environments, and genetically engineering yeast strains for biofuel production.

The MIT Energy Initiative Seed Fund Program works to finance MIT projects intended to improve energy and environmental issues. Areas of interest include research in clean energy, development of efficient energy systems, and technologies geared towards climate change. Funding for the program is provided by the MITEI Founding and Sustaining Members Program.

In January 2008, MITEI funded 17 energy research projects in its first round of energy seed grants. MITEI will continue to award these grants twice annually to energy research projects that show high potential for future application.

Only faculty and research staff with principal investigator privileges are eligible candidates for these grants. To apply for an energy seed grant, visit <http://web.mit.edu/mitei/>.

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Ridley Scott to Direct Movie Based on ‘Forever War’

Forever War, from Page 1

the book was especially relevant now in view of the present War on Terror, Haldeman said. Although today's army is comprised of volunteers, not the conscripts of Vietnam (and those in *The Forever War*), involuntary contract extensions are common. "These poor guys wind up going four times overseas," Haldeman said.

In the book, the protagonist is in combat for less than a decade, but the Earth ages thousands of years in his absence due to relativistic effects. Every time he comes back from combat, the protagonist finds an entirely new human civilization.

Haldeman calls this "the dislocating effect of warfare," which he experienced firsthand. Like the soldiers in Haldeman's book, Vietnam veterans came home to a society that had changed rapidly in their absence.

"Soldiers find out they're not fighting for their own culture," he said.

In *The Forever War*, about as many casualties come during training exercises or because of accidents as come from contact with the alien enemy. "In Vietnam, it didn't take you long to see that the actual enemy was the people on your side" — the draft boards and the Army itself, Haldeman said. "You had no personal problem with the Vietnamese."

The film, like the book, will probably have an "obvious antiwar message," Haldeman said. "I want people to understand what a dislocating experience it is, which the Army certainly isn't telling anybody. People don't understand that when you sign up you lose your civil rights. The Bill of Rights no longer applies to you. Once you're inside, in a sense you have less citizenship than someone who's in prison."

Novel repudiates *Starship*

In some ways *The Forever War* reads as a post-Vietnam response to Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*, the hawkish 1959 novel that tracks the career of a soldier fighting against an uncommunicative alien race; the novel follows him from enlistment, throughout an exciting series of combat actions, to a climactic final battle.

In the *Starship Troopers* version of Earth, service guarantees citizenship: only veterans can vote. The protagonist and his friends are enthusiastic volunteers.

Heinlein's soldiers are volunteers, and their death is rare (and, Haldeman says, heroic). In *The Forever War*, like in Vietnam, some soldiers are drafted.

Conscription "was a really bad idea for Vietnam," Haldeman said, although it "was socially necessary for World War II." We're too far into the Iraq war to need a draft now, he said, but "when they start fighting in Iran, they're going to need a draft."

Haldeman says he teaches *Starship Troopers* as a "didactic novel. ... [It's] a very effective propaganda tool for getting 16 or 17 year olds enthusiastic about becoming soldiers." Haldeman, a self-described pacifist, condemns that message. But, he said, "Heinlein and I were friends at the end of his life ... we just forgave each other our politics."

Two jobs: MIT professor, writer

What exactly is Haldeman doing at MIT? Before he was hired in the late 1980s, "kids were all writing science fiction, and nobody in the program wrote science fiction, so they searched for a recognizable name with a degree and who had college teaching experience," Haldeman said. MIT didn't have a lot of options.

Haldeman now teaches two writing subjects, workshops in science fiction and longer fiction. Do MIT students actually write publishable stories? "Well, some of them," Haldeman said.

"I love teaching here for many reasons," he said. "I could go to any liberal arts college and find people full of a burning desire to write," he said. But he refused an offer from Harvard University. "There's no place elsewhere I could really fit in very well," he said, because MIT appreciates science fiction more than many other universities might. "The faculty is much more receptive," he said.

Having written and taught sci-

ence fiction for so long makes him an "extremely unfriendly reader," Haldeman said. "I've written so many books that I can see the bones, I just see the tools working away," he said. "Teaching it makes it even worse," he said. "You get to read amateur fiction for three-and-a-half months out of the year." A good book needs to stay interesting and not make mistakes, so that it makes him curious about the story, Haldeman said. So he mostly reads nonfiction: "I've got to get outside of science fiction to really be captivated."

Fans still write, at the rate of about ten e-mails a day, which Haldeman answers with at least a sentence or two, he said. "I got an actual letter last week and it was the first one I'd had in months," he said.

Haldeman says he makes a comfortable upper middle-class living from his works, which generally pay better than being an MIT professor. His current project, the novel *Starbound*, will be the second in a trilogy that began with *Marsbound* and will end with a novel to be called *Earthbound*.

Film will be Haldeman's second

Haldeman has written a story and screenplay before, for the film *Robot Jox*; he largely disavows that story now. "Some people enjoy [*Robot Jox*], but to me it's as if I'd had a child who started out well and then sustained brain damage," Haldeman wrote on his website.

One other novel, Haldeman's 1987 "Tool of the Trade," almost became a TV series, but the group in Hollywood interested in the story disappeared. The book follows an MIT psychology professor, secretly a Russian intelligence agent, who is unsure of his loyalties and has invented a device that will make almost anyone do whatever he asks. The book, which Haldeman calls his "most cinematic novel," was finished during his first year teaching at the Institute.

Haldeman says that *The Forever War*'s plot will translate well into film, at least in broad outlines. "From what I've seen of Ridley's public statements, the first movie, *The Forever War*, won't cover all of the novel," more likely about half of it, Haldeman said. "The first time I optioned the novel, it was for a 4-part miniseries on television. I wouldn't expect what I had proposed as a 8-hour movie to show up on a movie," he said.

What about artistic integrity? Is he deeply worried about the way Scott will portray his work? "No," Haldeman said. "It's not my work any more. I'll spend the check and they can have my book."

Haldeman said he doesn't need a strong say in the film, and that his conversations with Scott have so far been through their respective agents.

"The only time I ever met Ridley Scott," Haldeman said, "was when he got the Hugo award for best movie" for *Blade Runner*, "the film based on Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* that excited science fiction readers but drew poor attendance in theaters. "And he said, 'Oh, you were the people who saw it.'"

Novel reflects military experience

Haldeman was drafted in 1968 and spent a year in the service. "I got there February 29, 1968, and everyone was afraid the computer would make us wait four years," he said. He spent the year as a demolitions engineer on search and destroy missions in groups of about fifty, traveling around the jungle trying to draw Vietcong fire.

"When they started shooting at us we'd bring in artillery and air support and try to draw them out," he said. But "they'd disappear three minutes after fighting," knowing that it took air support four minutes to arrive. Haldeman refused a commission and served as a private the whole time, eventually ranked Specialist-4.

His Army career ended when a booby-trapped pile of ordnance exploded in an abandoned enemy position while his demolitions team had been assigned to guard the pile. "Our sergeant protested, this could be a booby trap, it's really a sitting duck" situation, but "the major in charge of the infantry wanted to wait and have his boys get some chow before they left." The pile blew up a few minutes later, sending hundreds of bullets and pieces of shrapnel into his body. Of the wounded, "I was the only one who survived with all my limbs intact," Haldeman said.

After spending time in several military hospitals, Haldeman was assigned to work as a postman and got out of the service three months early, considered "40 percent disabled" based on the location and number of his wounds. "In a very practical way, or perhaps a cynical way, it was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said.

There are few prominent Army veterans in science fiction. The field has "two or three veterans of my generation," and he's "met one guy from the current conflict," Haldeman said. Combat changes you, he said. "Sometimes [being a veteran is] very, very binding, and sometimes it's the opposite," Haldeman said.

In *The Forever War*, and in modern wars, machines and technology sometimes dominate the fighting. "The people are counters that give war the extra value," Haldeman said. "We very rarely saw the enemy, we saw them after you killed them. I saw a total of two enemy soldiers whom we had wounded," he said.

"There was no epic sense to anything that I experienced in combat," he said. "It was really gang fighting with airplanes."

The protagonist of *The Forever War* rarely does anything heroic, though he does make clever tactical decisions that save him and many of his comrades. He gains rank mostly by default: by constantly surviving missions, he keeps getting promoted.

The protagonist is "not a hero type, he's not that good looking, he's just an everyman with an education," Haldeman said. Of course, in Hollywood, even the everyman has to look good. "Daniel Craig would be good," he said.

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Baylor Offers Frosh Financial Incentives To Retake the SAT

By Sara Rimer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Georgia Green, a music education professor at Baylor University in Waco, Tex., said she did not believe it when a colleague told her in June that Baylor was offering incoming freshmen financial incentives to retake the SAT.

"I said, 'That can't be right; that's just impossible,'" recalled Dr. Green, who has taught at Baylor for more than 20 years and is chairwoman of the Faculty Senate.

The report turned out to be true, and late Tuesday, Dr. Green and her colleagues in the Faculty Senate passed a motion criticizing the effort. Baylor had offered incoming freshmen a \$300 credit at the campus bookstore to retake the SAT. Students who raised their scores by 50 points or more received \$1,000 a year in merit scholarship aid.

"This practice is academically dishonest and should be discontinued," the motion read.

Dr. Green said that after she first heard about the plan, she approached Baylor's president, John M. Lilley, at a meeting. "I said, 'I just heard the most bizarre thing; someone told me we're paying freshmen to retake the SAT.' He said, 'I don't know anything, but I'll check into it.'"

The next day, Dr. Green said, she received a call from Baylor's vice president for finance, Reagan Ramsower. "He said, 'Dr. Lilley tells me you're concerned about this SAT thing,'" she said. Dr. Green said she challenged Dr. Ramsower to explain the move.

According to Dr. Green, Dr. Ramsower said that a group of people in admissions had brought the idea to him, and that he had signed off on it.

Dr. Green said: "He said, 'It's a win-win: the scores go up; the kids get money.' I said, 'I hope you're prepared to get a lot of criticism from the faculty.' He just didn't think it was a big deal."

Her concerns were soon eclipsed by a larger and more public issue: Dr. Lilley, the president, was dismissed in July after two years in office, amid faculty concerns about his refusal to grant tenure to several candidates

who had been recommended by colleagues.

Baylor is a 14,000-student private Baptist university, and faculty members said Wednesday that the incentives were at odds with its strong commitment to academic integrity.

In the university's widely publicized 10-year strategic plan, called Baylor 2012, officials laid out their goals of deepening their "distinctive Christian mission" while entering the top tier of national rankings.

While a university spokesman, John Barry, has said the decision to offer freshmen financial incentives to retake the SAT was primarily driven by a desire to distribute additional merit aid, Dr. Green and other faculty members expressed skepticism.

Robert C. Cloud, a professor of higher education, said, "I do think there was an underlying motivation to increase the average SAT scores and therefore then improve our position with regard to the rankings."

Mr. Barry said Wednesday that the interim president, David Garland, was interested in learning about the Faculty Senate's concerns and expected to meet with Dr. Green soon.

Philip A. Ballinger, the director of admissions at the University of Washington in Seattle, was among the college admissions officials who were on a panel that spent a year drafting a study on the uses, and possible misuses, of the SAT and ACT in college admissions for the National Association for College Admission Counseling. The study urged colleges, universities and other institutions to re-examine their use of the tests in admissions and in the awarding of merit aid.

In more than 20 years in college admissions, Dr. Ballinger said, he had never heard of an institution using the SAT the way Baylor did.

"I'm just astounded that rankings would drive policy to such an extent," Dr. Ballinger said.

"It's just rotten all around," he said. "The general context for this whole thing is that it's simply a misuse of the test. But also it just separates this whole thing from the educational mission of a university. It's just like all of a sudden people removed their brains and went to Mars."

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Protesters Demand More Student Input, Echoing Past Gripes

Protest, from Page 1

use their input.”

“It’s our goal to revive student participation,” Lachenmyer said.

T-shirts picturing a string of dominoes collapsing onto the MIT logo will be distributed at the protest. Inscribed on each falling domino is an area of concern — “communication,” “hacking,” “dining,” “housing,” and “community.”

The shirts were designed and paid for by the Undergraduate Association in the spring, according to former UA president Martin F. Holmes ’08. They were left over from a failed UA initiative unrelated to the current protest. The UA has tried to distance itself from today’s protest and the campaign behind it.

Last fall, about 30 MIT students picketed Walker Memorial to protest the administration’s statements about Simpson’s arrest. Simpson was apprehended at gunpoint at Logan airport for wearing a blinking LED sign, which was mistaken for a bomb. On the same day, MIT released a statement condemning Simpson’s actions as “reckless.”

At last year’s protest, students marched with signs that read “Think before you speak” and “Support the students.”

Today’s sit-in will probably be more studious, Lachenmyer said. “It’s a tool-in,” he said. “It’s like a sit-in, but people get together with their pets to tool.”

Tool-in recalls 1999 protest

A similar “tool-in” was held in April 1999. Students from the group ILTFP organized the tool-in to protest what they saw as creeping paternalism and a tendency to ignore student requests, *The Tech* reported. “We have a committee. We discuss stuff. They do what they were going to do anyway,” tool-in organizer Jeremy Brown ’94 said in 1999.

At the time, he told *The Tech*, “My fantasy is that it’ll put a different spin on the state of student dissatisfaction.”

“I guess as a solidarity activity it was successful,” Brown said last night, as he looked back on the protest. He said they had hoped to get non-MIT press to cover the activity.

Brown, who now runs a small software business, said that in his time, students and administrators sometimes got along. When Stephen D. Immerman, now senior associate dean for student development, “took a direct personal hand” in helping Senior House students during their dorm’s renovation, “it was probably the single most successful student-administration team-up I ever saw,” Brown said.

Student protests have sometimes worked, too. Students reacted strongly to a 1994 MIT committee report that proposed moving residents out of East Campus and Senior House and possibly into Ashdown House. The response was really something, Brown said: “Sport Death Banners over McCormick.” (Tire swings appeared across campus and copies of Senior House’s iconic banner appeared in front of five West Campus dorms. The report was abandoned.)

“The student reaction to almost anything is almost always to maintain the status quo,” Brown said. “I can really see how the administration could ultimately choose efficiency over ... negotiation when the negotiation is for no change. I don’t know how you fix it, because every freshman comes in just as dumb as the freshman the year before.” But if the administration were to try to negotiate with students, they’d get better decisions and a “better taste left in someone’s mouth” when students graduate, Brown said.

“I started donating after Chuck Vest left,” he said.

Poverty Week Schedule

This Weekend	STAND UP Against Poverty (10/17, 7pm @ Harvard, meet at 77 Mass Ave at 6:15pm to take the number 1 bus)	ONGOING EVENTS	
	Business as Unusual - What does it look like?: Interactive Arts Project (10/18, 2-4pm Z Center Lobby)		
	Global Fundraising Dinner: Eat So They Can (10/18, 5-7pm in Mezzanine Lounge)		
Monday	Study break (10/19, 9pm in Next House)	Action challenge: Can you eliminate non-water beverages for the week and donate the money saved? Open to anyone and everyone on campus.	
	Opening keynote: Nicholas Negroponte, Founder of One Laptop per Child (7:30pm, 32-123)		
Tuesday	Study break (10pm, Baker)		Visit the GPI Booth in Lobby 10 all week to buy books, pick up a resource manual, register for the challenge, and make your voice heard! Each day there will also be a different featured group .
	Business as Unusual - What does it look like?: Bag and shirt making (1-3pm, Stata Center Lobby)		
	Domestic Poverty Debate & Discussion (5-6:30pm, Mezzanine Lounge)		
	Energy & water planning for developing nations, Dr. Richard Tabors (7pm, 6-120)	Check out the Development Project Posters in Lobby 13 and the Interactive art display along the infinite corridor.	
	Study break (9pm, New House)		

For more information and a complete schedule visit gpi.mit.edu/povertyweek.

The MIT African Students Association presents

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b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

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SPORTS

Steinbrenner Million Dollar Pledge Allows Upgrades to Stadium

By James Kramer
DAPER STAFF

The Steinbrenner Foundation, which helped shape the outdoor landscape at MIT over 30 years ago with a gift leading to the construction of the Institute's most prominent athletic venue, has made another generous pledge as MIT continues to celebrate the legacy of Henry G. Steinbrenner '27. The gift will aid in the construction of a new entrance and pathway from Vassar Street to Steinbrenner Stadium and will also include lighting, seating, and a new press box.

"The legacy of the Steinbrenner connection to MIT lives on through this generous gift from the Steinbrenner Foundation," said Director of Athletics Julie Soriero. "This provides us with funding to upgrade our stadium seating, access areas, and working press box. This will vastly improve Steinbrenner Stadium as it currently exists, making it an outstanding venue in which to compete or watch a game. We are appreciative of the continued generosity from the Steinbrenner family."

"It is our honor and privilege to ensure that future athletes, fans, and the entire MIT community will be able to continue to enjoy the Stein-

brenner Stadium for generations to come," added George M. Steinbrenner III.

Henry G. Steinbrenner received a bachelor of science degree in naval architecture and engineering from MIT in 1927 and at the same time won the American Bureau of Shipping Award for outstanding achievement as a scholar. A two-time track and field All-American, Steinbrenner became the first MIT student-athlete to win a national title after winning the low hurdles championship in record time during his senior year.

In 1977, George Steinbrenner III and his sisters, Susan and Judith, provided MIT with a significant contribution for the construction of an athletic stadium in honor of their father. The commitment was announced at MIT's annual alumni luncheon in support of the Class of 1927's 50th Reunion Gift.

For most of his professional career, Henry G. Steinbrenner served as president of the family-owned shipping line, The Kinsman Marine Transit Company. The naming of the Stadium in his honor was a testimonial to his athletic and academic achievements as an undergraduate and his professional achievements as an American industrial leader.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 17, 2008

Pistol vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 6:00 p.m., duPont Athletic Center
Men's Water Polo vs. Connecticut College 8:30 p.m., Zesiger Center

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

Pistol vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 9:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center
Sailing Invitational 9:30 a.m., Charles River
Men's Soccer vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 10:30 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Women's Volleyball MIT Quad Tournament 10:30 a.m., Rockwell Cage
Men's Water Polo vs. Queens College 12:00 p.m., Zesiger Center
Field Hockey vs. Smith College 1:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field
Football vs. Western New England College 2:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008

Crew Head of the Charles 9:00 a.m., Charles River
Men's Water Polo vs. St. Francis College 12:00 p.m., Zesiger Center

SCOREBOARD

Rifle

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008

MIT (1-2)	2239(s), 2225(a)
U.S. Naval Academy (8-0)	2288(s), 2335(a)

Men's Soccer

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008

MIT (12-1-1)	0
Bates College (6-5-0)	3

Women's Soccer

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008

MIT (4-7-1)	4
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (5-7-0)	0

Women's Tennis

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008

MIT (7-2)	6
Wheaton College (10-2)	3

Women's Volleyball

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (10-11)	0
MIT (14-11)	3

Crain Plows Through to Ninth at New England Singlehanded Championships

Representing MIT at the New England Men's Singlehanded Championships, Philip C. Crain '12 finished an amazing ninth out of 33 entries at the two day sailing event hosted by Yale University.

Sports Shorts

After an average start in which he ranked 16th in the opening round, Crain poured it on, placing fourth, seventh, and ninth in the next three races. Overall, the MIT standout registered eight top 10 finishes among the 11 races.

Charles D. Field '10 also sailed for the Engineers.

On Saturday, the fleet was sent out amid a fading northerly wind which had disappeared by the time the participants hit the starting area. By late morning, a light easterly breeze held enough to finish the first race. The following rounds saw a current steadily shift right to the southwest and holding at around 7-8 knots.

Winds consistently built to a southwesterly eight knots on Sunday. All races were completed on windward/leeward twice around courses.

Among the other New England teams competing were rivals Harvard University, Tufts University, Boston University, and event winner Brown University.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

Women's Soccer Blanks Coast Guard, 4-0

MIT women's soccer delivered its best offensive effort of the season in a 4-0 victory over Coast Guard at Roberts Field on Tuesday. Alisha D. Lussiez '12 scored two goals and assisted on another in the victory.

The Engineers opened the scoring in the 37th minute as Lussiez connected on her fifth goal of the season. Lauren R. Hernley '11, who was in command of the midfield all afternoon, supplied an assist on the opening marker.

MIT added to its advantage in the 58th minute as Hernley knocked home her second goal of the campaign. Taking a feed from Jean E. "Liz" Theurer '10 deep in the Coast Guard box, Hernley slammed the ball into the middle of the net just under the top post. Six minutes later, Lussiez delivered another goal off a pass from Claire M. DeRosa '11.

Hernley capped off the scoring with a blast from 25 yards out in the 88th minute.

Rookie net-minder Mary Mills was sensational in a losing effort for Coast Guard. With several diving lunges and a strong presence between the pipes, Mills slowed the MIT attack while finishing the day with 14 saves. Stephanie V. Brenman '09 made two saves en route to her fifth shutout of the season.

MIT enjoyed a 26-5 advantage in shots and a 5-1 edge in corners.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

MIT Rifle Drops a Pair of Matches at Navy

The MIT rifle team traveled to the U.S. Naval Academy over the weekend for a pair of matches with the Midshipmen, as well as the team from Penn State. On Saturday, the Engineers had scores of 2237 in

smallbore and 2226 in air rifle, good for second among the three squads. On Sunday, in a head to head matchup with Navy, Tech was outshot by the host team 2288 to 2239 in smallbore and 2335 to 2225 in air rifle.

On Saturday, Emily F. Houston '10 and Joseph K. Lane '11 would match the top two marksmen from Navy in the smallbore category, shooting 576 and 573 respectively. However, the Engineers could not keep up with the host's air rifle scores, as the top three point totals in that event belonged to Midshipmen. Nigel C. Kojimoto '12 helped contribute to the second place finish, shooting 549 in smallbore category and 550 in air rifle. Jennifer K. Paek '10 rounded out the scoring for Tech with scores of 539 in smallbore and 534 in air.

The Engineers returned to the range Sunday but were again outdueled by the Naval Academy in both guns. Houston had another accurate performance, with scores of 574 in smallbore and an impressive 588 in air rifle, just two points off the high score in the meet. The next three shooters for Tech finished within two points of each other in the smallbore category. Lane led the way with a 556, Kojimoto was one off that score with Paek just a point below that. Once again, the Midshipmen dominated the air rifle event, outshooting the Engineers by 110 points.

MIT will be back in action in two weeks when Navy comes to Cambridge for a meet, along with the Wentworth Institute of Technology, on Saturday, October 25.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Women's Volleyball Sweeps WPI, 3-0

Following a week-long hiatus, the MIT women's volleyball team returned to action with a 25-15, 25-15, 25-5 victory over WPI in a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) match on Tuesday night.

MIT raced out to an 11-1 lead in the opening set, but WPI responded with five unanswered points including a pair of kills from Becca Holmberg. Each side traded points, but MIT captured five out of the last six points with a service ace by Alexandra T. May '10 to seal the set.

MIT again built an early advantage in the second set. MIT closed the set with an 11-3 run, culminating in a four-point serving run by Barden E. Cleeland '10.

Cecily L. Joujon-Roche's '12 blocking efforts with Jennifer Li '11 and Katrina M. Ellison '10 on the first two points of the final set helped power MIT to a 10-2 lead. Lindsay E. Hunting '09 served the final eight points to clinch the match for MIT.

Joujon-Roche recorded a match-high six blocks to go along with four kills. Cleeland collected seven kills on 13-errorless attempts for a .538 hitting percentage. May tallied six kills, five digs, and two aces as Ellison added six kills and a .556 hitting performance. Kelly E. Schulte '12 connected on all four of her hitting attempts while Li, Emily Obert '11, and Allison E. Hamilos '12 each posted three kills. Hunting notched eight digs and five aces as Li picked up three aces. Catherine Melnikow '10 totaled 17 assists and 11 digs while Evelyn C. Corder '12 dished out five assists.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, MIT will host its Quad Tournament featuring Western New England College, Saint Mary's College (Ind.), and Millikin University.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff



ALLISON M. ALWAN

Kelly E. Schulte '12 spikes the ball during the women's volleyball team's 3-0 win over Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday evening in Rockwell Cage.